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Council Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Council

Twentieth Session, 1926

1st and 2nd March, 1926

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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble VICTOR ALEXANDER GEORGE ROBERT BULWER-LYTTON, Earl of Lytton, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Hon'ble SIR HUGH STEPHENSON, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Appointment.
2. Political, excluding Haj pilgrimage
3. Police
4. Ecclesiastical.
5. Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards, subject to legislation by the Indian Legislature.
6. Jails.
7. Judicial.
8. Legislative, including the Executive Administration of the Legislative Department and elections for Indian and Provincial Legislatures, subject to rules framed under sections 64 (*1*) and 72 (*a*) of the Government of India Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Finance.
2. Separate Revenue.
3. Commerce and Industrial subjects.
4. Marine.
5. Education.
6. Public Works.

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur of Nadia, in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Land Revenue.
2. Land Acquisition.
3. Excluded areas.
4. Irrigation.
5. Medical administration, including hospitals, dispensaries and asylums and provision for medical education.
6. Local Self-Government.

The Hon'ble NAWAB BAHADUR SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, KHAN BAHADUR, C.I.E., in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Emigration.
2. Immigration.
3. Jurisdiction.
4. Haj Pilgrimage.
5. Forests.
6. Agriculture and Industries.
7. Excise.
8. Registration.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT.

The Hon'ble Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

DR. ABDULLAH AL-MAMUN SUHRAWARDY.

Panel of Chairmen for the Twentieth Session.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ.

Mr. G. MORGAN.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI of Santosh.

Secretary to the Council—J. BARTLEY, I.C.S. (on leave), A. DE C. WILLIAMS, I.C.S., (Offg.).

Assistant Secretaries to the Council—A. M. HUTCHISON (on leave), K. N. MAJUMDAR, and J. W. MC KAY, (Offg.).

Registrar to the Council—M. MUKHERJI (Offg.).

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Addams-Williams, Mr. C., C.I.E. (Nominated Official.)
Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Ahamad, Maulvi Asimuddin. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Tayebuddin. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Zannoor. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Ahsanullah, Mollah [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]
Aley, Khan Bahadur S. Mahboob. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Maulvi Sayyed Sultan. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Altaf [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]

B

Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Baksh, Maulvi Kader. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Babu Satya Kishore. (Burdwan Landholders.)
Banerjee, Mr. A. C. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra. (Nominated Non-official.)
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan, M.B.E. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barton, Mr. H. (Anglo-Indian.)
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basu, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
Birley, Mr. L., C.I.E. (Nominated Official.)
Biswas, Mr. Abdul Latif, B.L. [Dacca West (Rural) Muhammadan.]
Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna. (Calcutta University.)

C

Campbell, Mr. K. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Chakravarti, Mr. Byomkes. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chakravarti, Babu Jogindra Chandra. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chakravorty, Babu Sudarsan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]

Chatterjee, Babu Umes Chandra. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., [Member, Executive Council.]
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath. [24-Parganas Rural North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhury, Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhury, Maulvi Saiyed Abdur Rob. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]
Child, Mr. R. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazlal Karim. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]
Chunder, Mr. Nirmal Chandra. [Calcutta North Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Cohen, Mr. D. J. (Nominated Non-official.)
Cooper, Mr. C. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Corcoran, Mr. B. J. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]
Crawford, Mr. T. C. (Indian Tea Association.)

D

Das, Babu Charu Chandra. (Nominated Non-official.)
Das, Dr. Mohini Mohan. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Das, Rai Bahadur Amar Nath. (Nominated Official.)
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Datta, Babu Akhil Chandra. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]
Daud, Mr. M. (Nominated Non-official.)
De, Mr. K. C., C.I.E. (Nominated Official.)
Dey, Babu Boroda Prosad. [Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J., C.S.I., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal, M.B.E. [Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan).]
Drummond, Mr. J. G. (Nominated Official.)
Dutt, Mr. G. S. (Nominated Official.)

F

Faroqui, Khan Bahadur K. G. M. (Nominated Non-official.)
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

G

Gafur, Maulvi Abdul. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]
Ganguly, Babu Khagendra Nath. [Howrah Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghuznavi, Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
Goenka, Rai Bahadur Badridas. (Bengal Marwari Association.)
Guha, Mr. P. N. (Nominated Non-official.)

H

Haldar, Mr. S. N. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Haq, Khan Bahadur Kazi Zahirul. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Heard, Major-General Richard, C.I.E., M.D., K.H.S., I.M.S. (Nominated Official.)
Hopkyns, Mr. W. S., O.B.E. (Nominated Official.)
Hoque, Maulvi Sayedul. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
Hossain, Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur. [Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]
Hossain, Maulvi Wahed. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Huq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]
Huq, Mr. Mahbubul. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]

J

James, Mr. F. F., O.B.E. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]
Jennaway, Mr. J. H. (Indian Mining Association.)
Joardar, Maulvi Attab Hossain. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]

K

Khaitan, Babu Debi Prosad. (Nominated Non-official.)
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Abdur Raschid. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Amanat. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Mahi Uddin. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]

L

Lal Mahammad, Haji. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
Law, Raja Reshee Case, C.I.E. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Liddell, Mr. H. C. (Nominated Official.)
Lindsay, Mr. J. H., I.C.S. (Nominated Official.)

M

Muhammad, Maulvi Basar. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]
Maity, Babu Mahendra Nath. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Masih, Mr. Syed M. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
McAlpin, Mr. M. C., C.I.E. (Expert, nominated.)
Mitra, Babu Jogendra Nath. [Jessore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mitra, Babu Satyendra Chandra. [Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan).]

Mitter, Sir Provash Chunder, Kt., C.I.E. (Presidency Landholders.)
Moreno, Dr. H. W. B. (Anglo-Indian.)
Morgan, Mr. G. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Mukerjea, Babu Taraknath. [Hooghly Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukerji, Mr. S. C. (Nominated Non-official.)
Mumin, Khan Bahadur Md. Abdul. (Expert, nominated.)

N

Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Nazimuddin, Khaje. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]
Neogi, Babu Manmohon. [Mymensingh West (Non-Muhammadan).]

O

Oaten, Mr. E. F. (Nominated Official.)

P

Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
Philip, Mr. J. Y. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Q

Quader, Maulvi Abdul. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]

R

Rahim, Sir Abd-ur, K.C.S.I. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Mr. A. F. (Dacca University.)
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Abanish Chandra. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Anilbaran. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar. [Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan).]
*Ray, the Hon'ble Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)
Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra of Nadia. (Member, Executive Council.)
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C. (Nominated Non-official.)
Ray Chaudhuri, Raja Manmatha Nath, of Santosh. (Dacca Landholders.)

* President of the Bengal Legislative Council.

Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath. [Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Satcowripati. [Calcutta North-West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra. [24-Parganas Municipal North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. D. N. [Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. S. N., I.C.S. (Nominated Official.)
Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan. (Bengal Mahajan Sabha.)
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh, C.I.E., of Chakdighi. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]

S

Salam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Babu Hemanta Kumar. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Maulvi Allah Buksh. [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]
Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sasmal, Mr. B. N. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sen, Mr. N. C. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]
Simpson, Mr. J. W. A. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra. (Chittagong Landholders.)
Skinner, Mr. S. A. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Snaith, Mr. J. F. (Calcutta Trades.)
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Sir Hugh, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (Member, Executive Council.)
*Suhrawardy, Dr. A. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

T

Tarafdar, Maulvi Rajib Uddin. [Bogra Muhammadan).]
Travers, Mr. W. L., C.I.E., O.B.E. [Rajshahi (European).]

V

Villiers, Mr. Edward. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

W

Wilson, Mr. R. B., C.I.E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Woodhead, Mr. J. A. (Nominated Official.)

Y

Yasin, Maulvi Muhammadan. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]

* Deputy President of the Bengal Legislative Council.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Twentieth Session.)

VOLUME XX—No. 2.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday the 1st March, 1926, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy President (Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY) in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, and 89 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Jail Service.

***LXXIX. Maulvi ZANNOOR AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state the principle underlying the selection of head clerks in the recent reorganization of the Jail service?

(*b*) Is it a fact that several senior officers were superseded by junior officers of 5 years' standing?

(*c*) Is it a fact that officers recruited for executive work were made head clerks and clerks in the recent reorganization?

(*d*) Is it a fact that an officer recruited for clerical duties was made a Deputy Jailer?

(*e*) Is it a fact that several graduates have been made clerks under the new scheme?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Stephenson): (*a*) Assistant Jailers who were not considered suitable for executive work but were efficient in clerical duties have been appointed head clerks.

(*b*) Some senior Assistant Jailers have been passed over for appointment as Deputy Jailers.

(*c*) Assistant Jailers were recruited for both executive and clerical work. Some of them have become head clerks and clerks.

(*d*) An officer originally recruited as a clerk but subsequently made an Assistant Jailer in 1920 was selected for the post of Deputy Jailer, being found suitable for executive work.

(*e*) Five graduates who were appointed as Assistant Jailers after 1921 have been made clerks.

Damodar Canal Scheme.

***LXXX. Babu BORODA PROSAD DEY:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state in what stage of progress the project "Damodar Canal Scheme", prepared by Mr. C. Addams-Williams, C.I.E., of the Irrigation Department, is at present?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur, of Nadia): Government have decided to commence construction of the canal next financial year.

Schemes for the entertainment and training of Indians as Engineers and Traffic Officers.

***LXXXI. Babu BORODA PROSAD DEY:** With reference to the answers to starred question No. LXVII of the 9th December, 1925, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to lay on the table the schemes for the entertainment and training of Indians as Engineers and Traffic Officers mentioned in the answer?

MEMBER in charge of MARINE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): The Commissioners' scheme for the entertainment and training of Indians as Engineers was incidental to a general scheme for

the reorganization of the Engineering Department *in extenso*, which the Commissioners approved in June, 1922. The relevant provisions were :—

(*i*) provision for a new grade of Assistant Engineers on the permanent staff, consisting of five posts, on a pay of Rs. 300—25—600;

(*ii*) provision for a new grade of Assistant Engineers on the King George's Dock staff, consisting of four posts, on a pay of Rs. 300—25—600; and

(*iii*) provision for a new grade of Probationary Assistant Engineers on the King George's Dock staff, consisting of two posts, on a pay of Rs. 200—225, to form a further training ground for Student Engineers, desirous of qualifying themselves for appointment as Assistant Engineers in the grade referred to in item (*ii*) above.

The Commissioners' scheme for the entertainment and training of Indians as Traffic Officers formed the subject of a self-contained note and resolution, a copy of which is laid on the table.

Resolution referred to in the reply to starred question No. LXXXI.

EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PORT COMMISSIONERS' 1,858TH MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH SEPTEMBER, 1922.

1-2. Traffic Department—Probationary Assistant Superintendents

Read the following :—

Note dated the 8th September, 1922, by the Chairman.

The future increase in the traffic of the port, which is being provided for by the construction of the new jetties and sheds at Garden Reach and the King George's Docks, will necessitate a gradual increase in the supervising staff of the Traffic Department. It is desirable that arrangements should be made as early as possible for the training of suitable men for the additional posts which it will be necessary to create, and as stated in my note recorded at the 1,852nd meeting I have had under consideration a scheme for training selected Indian graduates in traffic working in order to fit them for these posts.

2. After full consultation with the Traffic Manager I now recommend the following scheme. It is proposed to appoint a few selected Indian graduates as Probationary Assistant Traffic Superintendents to undergo a period of training in all branches of the Traffic Department

for four years. The training would embrace the railway, shipping, and warehousing sides of traffic working and would commence with a preliminary period of three months in general office training in the head office. Following this the probationer would be trained for nine months of the Dock Export Sheds, where he would work for three months at a time as a Shed Writer, a Forwarding Clerk, and an Assistant Shed Foreman. During the second year he would work at the Jetty Transit Shed, for six months as a Shed Writer and for six months as Head Shed Clerk. In the third year he would be posted as an Inspector at the Docks for half the period and as a Shed Master at the Jetties for the other half.

3. During the fourth year he would be employed in other supervising posts, which will widen his general knowledge of our working. These posts will include Inspector, Kantapukur, Inspector, Tea Warehouse, Inspector, Coal Dock, and Inspector, Northern Section.

4. During the whole period of probation the work of the probationer would form the subject of special annual reports by the Dock or Jetty Superintendent, and these officers will be specially responsible for seeing that proper and complete facilities for training are given. It is proposed that there should also be a yearly examination by the Traffic Manager to test the progress made in general knowledge of procedure. It is proposed that the pay of these posts should be Rs. 100—50—250, the increments being subject to satisfactory work and progress in each year.

5. Following a satisfactory period of training the probationer would be recommended to the Commissioners for appointment to a new grade of Assistant Superintendent, grade II, on Rs. 300—25—500, from which he would be eligible for promotion, as vacancies occurred, to the present grade of Assistant Superintendent, Rs. 530—40—850.

6. The scheme is designed to give a very thorough experience of the details of working which is essential in an officer who has later to fill a supervising post, and at the same time the varied nature of the occupations and the posting to the actual duties of the lower supervising posts in the later years will serve to give the broader outlook which is necessary in the higher grades.

7. The Traffic Manager anticipates that at least two additional posts of Assistant Superintendent will be necessary in four years' time without allowing for casualties and retirement, and I therefore recommend that two appointments of Probationary Assistant Superintendents on Rs. 100—50—250 be sanctioned and filled as soon as possible, and that in the future, provided there is a reasonable prospect of being able to absorb the trained men, one more probationer be appointed yearly on the same terms.

8. The proposal may be summarized as follows:—

	Post.	Period.	Pay.
			Rs.
1st year	GENERAL OFFICE WORK—		
	Docks—		
	Shed Writer ..	3 months ..	100
	Forwarding Clerk ..		
	Assistant Shed Foreman		
2nd year	*Jetties*—		
	Shed Writer ..	6 months ..	150
	Head Shed Clerk ..		
3rd year	*Docks* —		
	Inspector	6 months ..	200
	Jetties —		
	Shed Master		
4th year . .	GENERAL SUPERVISION		
	Inspector		
	Kantapukur ..	....	250
	Tea Warehouse ..		
	Coal Docks ..		
	Northern Section ..		

The Committee recommended that the scheme of training be approved and that for the present two posts of Probationary Assistant Traffic Superintendents on Rs. 100—50—250 should be created and that steps should be taken to fill them.

The Committee further recommended that the question of increasing the number of these posts should be considered after the lapse of a year.

Resolution No. 688.—Resolved that the recommendations of the Committee be approved, but that applications should only be considered from graduates with 1st class Honours not over 25 years of age.

Stopping of traffic on the occasion of the last departure from Calcutta of His Excellency the Viceroy.

***LXXXII. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH CANGULY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the occasion of the last departure from Calcutta of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India all approaches to the Howrah railway station from Howrah and Calcutta were stopped to all sorts of passenger and vehicular traffic from about half an hour before the time fixed for the departure?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the exact time for which such stoppage lasted?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state under whose orders such traffic arrangements are made?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state with what object such regulations and consequent inconveniences to traffic are enforced?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of doing away with such traffic regulations?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Stephenson) : (*a*) and (*b*) Approaches from Calcutta were stopped from 11 A.M. to traffic, with the exception of fast motor traffic and the conveyances of those attending Howrah station in an official capacity, which were allowed to pass up to the latest possible time before His Excellency the Viceroy passed. From Howrah the approaches were stopped from 11-40 A.M. twenty minutes before the time fixed for the departure of His Excellency the Viceroy.

Traffic was resumed in both directions at 12-30 P.M.

(*c*) and (*d*) In Calcutta, under section 62 A of the Calcutta Police Act (Bengal Act IV of 1866); the orders were issued with the approval of the Governor in Council. In Howrah under section 31 of the Police Act (V of 1861). The object of the regulations will appear from the sections of the law under which the orders were issued.

(*e*) No.

Location of the Court of the Additional District Judge of Howrah.

***LXXXIII. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH CANGULY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Court of the Additional District Judge of Howrah is located in a different building and at a considerable distance from the Civil Court buildings?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware of the inconveniences which suitors and lawyers have to undergo, specially during the rainy season, in going from the Civil Courts to the Court of the Additional District Judge?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of locating the Additional District Judge's Court to a site closer to the Civil Courts?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Stephenson) : (a) The Court of the Additional District Judge is located in a different building, but at a distance of only two minutes' walk from the Civil Court buildings.

(*b*) Some slight inconvenience may be caused to suitors and lawyers during the rainy season only.

(*c*) There is a scheme for building a new Civil Court, but it is not likely to be carried out in the immediate future.

Steep staircase of the Court of Additional District Judge, Howrah.

***LXXXIV. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH CANGULY:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department been drawn to the representation made by the members of the Howrah Bar and the public to the District Judge inviting his attention to the inconvenience and dangers of the steep stairs that lead to the Court of the Additional District Judge of Howrah?

(*b*) If so, has any action been taken for improving the condition of these stairs?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A plan and an estimate for a new staircase is under preparation by the local Public Works Department officers.

Cost of the scheme for the separation of the Judicial and Executive functions and services.

***LXXXV. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH CANCULY:** With reference to the answer given to my unstarred question No. 251 on the 4th December, 1925, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state the amount of the estimated cost of the latest scheme for the separation of the Judicial and Executive functions and services?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Stephenson): Government are not prepared to publish the details of the scheme which has been submitted to the Government of India and is now under their consideration.

District Settlement operations in Noakhali.

***LXXXVI. Maulvi SAYEDUL HOQUE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state:—

(*i*) when the District Settlement operations finished in Noakhali; and

(*ii*) how many cases under sections 105 and 106 are now pending in appeal with the District Judge of Noakhali?

(*b*) Are the Government contemplating taking immediate steps for the speedy disposal of these cases?

(*c*) If so, what are the steps proposed to be taken?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: (*a*) (*i*) Settlement operations were concluded in Noakhali in 1922.

(*ii*) There are 170 cases under sections 105 and 106, Bengal Tenancy Act, pending in appeal; of these 118 are analogous.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government will await the recommendations of the District Judge and the High Court.

Détenu Mohendra Nath Das.

***LXXXVII. Maulvi ABDUR RASCHID KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the father of the political prisoner (or Ordinance prisoner) Mohendra Nath Das, of village Noro Hompur, in the district of Noakhali, died, making his son, Mohendra Nath Das, the executor of his property by a will?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the elder brother of Mohendra Nath Das is not worldly minded and has no experience of worldly affairs and that therefore Mohendra Nath Das has been made the executor by his deceased father?

(*c*) Is it in the contemplation of the Government to allow Mohendra Nath Das to remain at home to manage the estate left to him by a will or deed?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Stephenson) : (*a*) His father has recently died. Government have no information whether any will has been left by the deceased.

(*b*) This is not the information of Government.

(*c*) No.

Voting by Government servants at Local and District Board elections.

***LXXXVIII. Maulvi ABDUR RASCHID KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any circular has been issued by the Government intimating their wish to the salaried servants of the Government who are members of Local and District Boards that they should remain aloof at the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Local and District Boards?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur, of Nadia) : Government have issued circulars to the effect that when an official stands for election as the Chairman of a District Board all Government servants, who are members of the District Board, should abstain from voting. Otherwise no restrictions have been placed on Government servants so far as recording their votes is concerned. Government servants have been forbidden by circular to canvass or take part in electoral campaigns.

Improvement of the lower reaches of the Bhairab river.

***LXXXIX. Babu JOGENDRA NATH MITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether that part of the Bhairab Scheme which contemplates the improvement of the lower reaches of the Bhairab by joining the Nabaganga with the Mathabhanga and again by joining the Bhairab with the Nabaganga near Jhenida by a canal through Chitra and Murjadbaor is ready?

(*b*) If not, when is it likely to be ready?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) The project for connecting the Nabaganga with the Mathabhanga is not yet ready, but that for connecting the Nabaganga with Bhairab near Jhenida has been completed and is under consideration by the Public Health Department.

(*b*) It is expected that the first named project will be ready in a few months' time.

Jessore Local Hospital.

***XC. Maulvi ABDUL QUADER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the Jessore Sadar District Hospital, called the Local Hospital, is supervised by the Civil Surgeon, and that the management of the hospital is vested in the Dispensary Committee, the President of which is the District Magistrate;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the said hospital is classed as class III (*a*) in which qualified (passed) senior compounders are employed and that the same rules for guidance are observed in all classes of hospitals, viz., class I, class II and class III (*a*);

(*iii*) whether in former times increase of pay of permanent qualified compounders was governed by the same set of rules for all classes of dispensaries and hospitals as the same Dispensary Manual issued by the Government applied to all of them; and

(*iv*) the reason why the new rules for the increase of pay sanctioned in May, 1924, for qualified compounders in hospitals and dispensaries do not cover the cases of compounders of long standing serving in class III (*a*) hospitals, *e.g.*, the Jessore Sadar District Hospital?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of extending the new rules for the increment of pay of compounders mentioned in (*a*) (*iv*) to all classes of hospitals and dispensaries including class III (*a*) hospitals?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes. But the rules do not require that the compounders employed should be senior men.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) The orders of 1924 apply only to Government hospitals and dispensaries and not to local fund institutions.

(*b*) No. As Government have been advised that they have no power to do so.

Maulvi ABDUL QUADER : Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons why in this particular case the rules for the increase of pay did not apply to Class III hospitals, when formerly the same set of

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia : I have already said that the different rules do not apply. I have nothing further to add to that.

Burial of a Hindu lady who died in the Faridpur Sadar Hospital.

***XCI. Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY :** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Medical) be pleased to state whether a Hindu lady, who died in the Faridpur Sadar Hospital, was buried in the trenching-ground by *domes* on the 30th November, 1925, at Faridpur?

(*b*) Is it a fact that some students of the Rajendra College, Faridpur, who admitted her to the hospital, gave their addresses and went to inquire on the 29th about the lady, and was told by a compounder that she was buried long ago by *domes*?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the body was still undisposed of on the 29th and was buried the day after, *i.e.*, on the 30th?

(*d*) Is it not the practice to take down the addresses of relations or friends of all patients at the time of admission?

(*e*) If so, was this done in the present case?

(*f*) Is it not the practice of all hospitals to inform the relations or friends before death, if possible, and after death, in all cases, to arrange for the disposal of the dead body and to wait 24 hours before actually disposing of the dead body?

(*g*) If so, was such intimation given in the present case? If not, why not?

(*h*) Is it the practice in Faridpur to bury the unclaimed dead bodies in the trenching-ground?

(*i*) If not, under whose instructions was the dead body of the lady buried in the trenching-ground?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) The corpse of Soshi, a Hindu widow, was buried by *domes* on the morning of November 30th, 1925, in a spot near the trenching-ground, selected by the Faridpur Municipality for the burial of unclaimed corpses.

(*b*) No addresses were given by the students. The Sub-Assistant Surgeon and the Compounder both state that no students called to inquire about Soshi on the 29th November, 1925.

(*c*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No. She had no relation and no friends, except the students, who said they would probably come to see the patient daily. They did not ask to be informed of her death.

Jessore Local Hospital.

***XC. Maulvi ABDUL QUADER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the Jessore Sadar District Hospital, called the Local Hospital, is supervised by the Civil Surgeon, and that the management of the hospital is vested in the Dispensary Committee, the President of which is the District Magistrate;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the said hospital is classed as class III (*a*) in which qualified (passed) senior compounders are employed and that the same rules for guidance are observed in all classes of hospitals, viz., class I, class II and class III (*a*);

(*iii*) whether in former times increase of pay of permanent qualified compounders was governed by the same set of rules for all classes of dispensaries and hospitals as the same Dispensary Manual issued by the Government applied to all of them; and

(*iv*) the reason why the new rules for the increase of pay sanctioned in May, 1924, for qualified compounders in hospitals and dispensaries do not cover the cases of compounders of long standing serving in class III (*a*) hospitals, *e.g.*, the Jessore Sadar District Hospital?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of extending the new rules for the increment of pay of compounders mentioned in (*a*) (*iv*) to all classes of hospitals and dispensaries including class III (*a*) hospitals?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes. But the rules do not require that the compounders employed should be senior men.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) The orders of 1924 apply only to Government hospitals and dispensaries, and not to local fund institutions.

(*b*) No. As Government have been advised that they have no power to do so.

Maulvi ABDUL QUADER : Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons why in this particular case the rules for the increase of pay did not apply to Class III hospitals, when formerly the same set of rules were observed for all of them?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia : I have already said that the different rules do not apply. I have nothing further to add to that.

Burial of a Hindu lady who died in the Faridpur Sadar Hospital.

***XCI. Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY :** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Medical) be pleased to state whether a Hindu lady, who died in the Faridpur Sadar Hospital, was buried in the trenching-ground by *domes* on the 30th November, 1925, at Faridpur?

(*b*) Is it a fact that some students of the Rajendra College, Faridpur, who admitted her to the hospital, gave their addresses and went to inquire on the 29th about the lady, and was told by a compounder that she was buried long ago by *domes*?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the body was still undisposed of on the 29th and was buried the day after, *i.e.*, on the 30th?

(*d*) Is it not the practice to take down the addresses of relations or friends of all patients at the time of admission?

(*e*) If so, was this done in the present case?

(*f*) Is it not the practice of all hospitals to inform the relations or friends before death, if possible, and after death, in all cases, to arrange for the disposal of the dead body and to wait 24 hours before actually disposing of the dead body?

(*g*) If so, was such intimation given in the present case? If not, why not?

(*h*) Is it the practice in Faridpur to bury the unclaimed dead bodies in the trenching-ground?

(*i*) If not, under whose instructions was the dead body of the lady buried in the trenching-ground?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) The corpse of Soshi, a Hindu widow, was buried by *domes* on the morning of November 30th, 1925, in a spot near the trenching-ground, selected by the Faridpur Municipality for the burial of unclaimed corpses.

(*b*) No addresses were given by the students. The Sub-Assistant Surgeon and the Compounder both state that no students called to inquire about Soshi on the 29th November, 1925.

(*c*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No. She had no relation and no friends, except the students, who said they would probably come to see the patient daily. They did not ask to be informed of her death.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) No, for the reasons given in the answer to (*e*).

(*h*) No.

(*i*) Answered in reply to (*a*).

Accidents during the rains under the Gorai Bridge near the Kushtia railway station.

***XCII. Babu HEMANTA KUMAR SARKAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several accidents causing of life and property take place during the rains under the Gorai Bridge near the Kushtia railway station on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(*b*) Is it a fact that no lighting arrangements are made by the Railway authorities at night to warn off the boats?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of inquiring and stating how many accidents have taken place during the last five years?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAYS) (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald) : (*a*) The only information in the possession of Government is to the effect that there was one accident about five years ago, with the loss of one life, and another about four years ago, but with no loss of life.

(*b*) Yes. The Railway Administration is, however, prepared to provide lights at two adjacent piers of the bridge in the fairway.

(*c*) No useful object would appear to be served by such an inquiry.

Bengal Junior Civil Service.

***XCIII. Maulvi ZANNOOR AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to name all the services under the Government of Bengal where the age-bar rule (depriving an officer of promotion to a higher service after the 40th year of his age) is in operation?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons why this disqualifying bar has been made to apply to the Bengal Junior Civil Service?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a Deputy Magistrate becomes a District Magistrate even after his 40th year?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of abolishing the age-bar rule from the Bengal Junior Civil Service?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: (*a*), (*b*) and (*d*) I think that the member is under a misapprehension. Normally the public services in Bengal are self-contained and an officer completes his career in the service which he first enters. But the rules for recruitment to the Bengal Civil Service (Executive) and the Bengal Junior Civil Service provide that ordinarily 35 per cent. and 20 per cent. respectively, of the annual vacancies shall be filled by the promotion of officers already in Government service, and that the age of officers so promoted shall not, save in exceptional circumstances, exceed 40 years. The majority of the officers promoted to the Bengal Civil Service are members of the Bengal Junior Civil Service, but the age-limit does not apply to members of that service alone. In the opinion of Government an officer of the Junior Service has opportunities before reaching the age of 40 of showing his fitness for promotion, and Government do not propose to alter the rule.

(*c*) Yes.

Babu BORODA PROSAD DEY: If a Deputy Magistrate can become a District Magistrate after his 40th year, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why a Sub-Deputy Magistrate cannot become a Deputy Magistrate after that year?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I cannot allow that question. It is in the nature of an argument, and not asking for information.

Inland steamer fares.

***XCIV. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Marine Department be pleased to state what were the fares charged for each class of passengers travelling from Goalundo to Chandpur and Narayanganj by the Joint Agents of the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, and the River Steam Navigation Company, Limited, in the month of July, 1914?

(*b*) What were the fares charged by the said Joint Agents for each class of passengers from Goalundo to Narayanganj and Chandpur for each year from the month of August, 1914, to the month of December, 1925?

(*c*) What are the names of the passenger steamers which daily ply between Goalundo, Narayanganj and Chandpur?

(*d*) When were they built?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) and (*d*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. XCIV.

Between—	1914 to 1915.	1916 to 1918.	1919 to 1920.	1921.	1922 to 1925.
Goalundo-Chandpur—	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
First Class	8 0 0	8 12 0	9 0 0	9 14 6	10 14 3
Second Class	5 2 0	5 10 0	6 0 0	6 9 6	7 4 0
Inter Class	2 9 0	2 13 0	3 0 0	3 5 0	3 10 6
Third Class	1 4 6	1 6 6	1 8 0	1 10 6	1 13 3
Goalundo-Narayanganj—					
First Class	8 0 0	8 12 0	9 12 0	10 11 6	11 12 9
Second Class .. .	5 8 0	6 1 0	6 8 0	7 2 6	7 14 0
Inter Class	2 12 0	3 0 0	3 4 0	3 9 0	3 14 6
Third Class	1 6 0	1 8 0	1 10 0	1 12 6	1 15 3

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (c) and (d) of starred question No. XCIV.

Name of steamer and date of construction. "Afghan," 1896; "Goorkha," 1896; "Beluchi," 1896; "Condor," 1897; "Vulture," 1897; "Buzzard," 1898.

Water-hyacinth.

***XCV. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether the District Boards of Eastern Bengal and the conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce have lately passed resolutions recommending the Government to undertake legislation for eradicating the evil of water-hyacinth?

(*b*) What steps, if any, have been decided on in this direction?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of laying copies of such resolutions as are referred to in clause (*a*) on the table?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of ACRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The member is referred to the reply to part (*c*) of unstarred question No. 118 asked by Maulvi Ekramul Huq at the meeting of the Council held on the 20th August, 1925.

(*c*) Copies of the resolutions are laid on the table.

Copies of resolutions referred to in the reply to clause (c) of starred question No. XCV.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE BAKARGANJ DISTRICT BOARD AT THE MEETING HELD ON THE 23RD OCTOBER, 1925.

Resolved that special legislation should be introduced with a view to render simultaneous action for clearance and destruction of water-hyacinth possible throughout Bengal and other affected neighbouring provinces, to select agencies for clearance, etc., and to solve the financial side of the problem. With regard to the latter point, the principle should be that the main rivers and channels should be cleared at the cost of Government and Steamer Companies, minor public khals and channels by the District Board, who should be authorized to recoup the cost by the levy of tolls on boats, etc., and that private lands and water should be cleared by, or at the cost of, the owners and occupiers.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE FARIDPUR DISTRICT BOARD AT THE MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH OCTOBER, 1925.

Resolved that the Board accepts the principle of meeting the cost by levying license fees and tolls on boats (exception being made in special cases) and recommends legislation at an early date, as the existing bye-laws are not workable and cannot be satisfactorily amended, provided suitable contribution is made by the Government.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE DACCA DISTRICT BOARD AT THE MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH OCTOBER, 1925.

Resolved that legislation is necessary, but that without simultaneous legislation, both in Assam and Bengal, no effective action can be expected, and that it should be kept in view that there be not any double taxation by the legislation any way.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE MYMENSINGH DISTRICT BOARD AT THE MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER, 1925.

1. First of all the Board discussed the question as to how to eradicate water-hyacinth (item No. 13 of the agenda) with the Special Officer appointed by Government and, after discussion, resolved

(1) that this Board consider that water-hyacinth is a public nuisance, that man-handling is the only method of eradication so far known, and that a special legislation is necessary to stamp out this pest, the bye-law being inoperative;

(2) that a temporary octroi duty of 1 anna per maund be levied on all exports from, and imports of finished goods to, affected districts; and

(3) that the amount so realized be utilized in eradicating the water-hyacinth pest from the affected parts.

Resolution passed by the Noakhali District Board at the meeting held on the 16th December, 1925.

Resolved unanimously that the cost of clearing water-hyacinth from the public water-ways in the district should be met by levying license fees and tolls on boats, and the Board recommend legislation at an early date, as the existing bye-laws are not workable and cannot be satisfactorily amended, provided suitable contribution is made by the Government. The spirit of the existing bye-laws should be incorporated in the special legislation, if any.

Resolution passed by the Tippera District Board at the meeting held on the 23rd November, 1925.

The Board advises legislation to enforce compliance and is willing to contribute for clearance of the pest. The matter will be fully discussed by a Committee consisting of—

The Chairman;

The Vice-Chairman;

Babu Indu Bhusan Dutta;

Khan Bahadur Munshi Ali Ahmed;

Babu Khetra Mohan Roy;

Maulvi Syed Abdul Jabbar;

and report to be submitted before the next meeting of the Board.

Resolution passed by the Chittagong District Board at the meeting held on the 19th December, 1925.

The Chairman explained that as the work of eradication of water-hyacinth will have to be undertaken simultaneously in the whole of Eastern Bengal, as explained by the Special Officer, it is a matter which concerns the Provincial Government to a certain extent and he thinks that a separate legislation would be necessary.

Resolved that as the existing bye-laws framed for destruction of water-hyacinth is not sufficient and workable, special legislation is necessary for the extermination of the water-hyacinth pest.

RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, INDIA AND CEYLON, AT THE 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON THE 14TH AND 15TH DECEMBER, 1925.

That this Association is of opinion that the spread of water-hyacinth throughout Bengal and Assam has of late years been so pronounced as to constitute a serious menace to agriculture and communications. This Association therefore urges on Government the necessity for legislation enforcing the destruction of the weed known as the water-hyacinth.

Posts of Collector or District Judge and members of the Indian Civil Service.

***XCVI. Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that ordinarily the posts of the rank of a Collector or a District and Sessions Judge are not intended to be held by officers of the Indian Civil Service of less than eight years' standing; and

(*b*) whether, if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, the Government are considering the desirability of appointing to such posts experienced officers of the Bengal Civil Service instead of members of the Indian Civil Service of less than eight years' standing?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: (*a*) No.

(*b*) If so, what are the steps so taken?

Haj pilgrimage.

***XCVII. Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department (Haj Pilgrimage) be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to accord facilities to the Haj pilgrims to embark from Calcutta?

(*b*) If so, what are the steps so taken?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT [HAJ PILGRIMAGE] (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) and (*b*) A notification was issued on the 9th February, 1926, declaring the port of Calcutta open to the Hedjaz pilgrim traffic, and District Officers have been asked to make this fact known as widely as possible. Accommodation will be provided in the *mushfi-khanas* and arrangements are being made for vaccination and medical

inspection. It is expected to have a satisfactory supply of steamers and necessary arrangements are being made to have the sailings fixed and published. The other arrangements are briefly stated in a leaflet which is under issue for distribution throughout the province in English, Bengali and Urdu for the information and convenience of the pilgrims. A special staff with a Protector of Pilgrims and a Lady Superintendent is being appointed under the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to deal with the pilgrim traffic. The neighbouring provinces of Bihar and Orissa, Assam and Burma, also have been informed of the opening of the port.

Jute Crop.

***XCVIII. Babu SATYA KISHORE BANERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware that there has been a shortage of jute crop this season?

(*b*) Do the Government intend to take any steps to improve the production of jute?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, by encouraging the growth of Government races of jute which give an average increased yield per acre of three maunds.

Cotton.

***XCIX. Babu SATYA KISHORE BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether any steps are being taken to improve the production of cotton?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The Second Economic Botanist to the Government of Bengal is devoting special attention to cotton. He is engaged in making a survey of the Bengal varieties, and is conducting experiments with a view to improving cotton cultivation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and in the districts of Bankura and Birbhum.

Alleged distinction between passengers at the Kharagpur Railway Junction waiting-rooms.

***C. Babu DEBENDRA LAL KHAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) aware that a distinction is made between passengers with European costume and those

without it at one of the two waiting-rooms for first and second class passengers at the Railway Junction of Kharagpur?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities to abolish the distinction at Kharagpur and other stations on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway in Bengal where such distinction is observed?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*a*) It is presumed that the question refers to the notice inside the First and Second Class Waiting-rooms for Gentlemen and Ladies which reads "only for the use of passengers who conform to European habits." No distinction as to costume is indicated.

(*b*) No.

Détenus.

***Cl. Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the political prisoners at present detained or imprisoned under the Bengal Regulation III of 1818 and the Bengal Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1925;

(*ii*) the places where they are now detained or imprisoned;

(*iii*) the number of the places where each one of them was removed from time to time;

(*iv*) the weight of each one of them—

(*a*) on the date on which they were taken into custody or a date as close to it as possible; and

(*b*) on the 1st January, 1926, or a date as close to it as possible;

(*v*) the names of such of the political prisoners who have been ill since they were taken into custody?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: (*i*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*ii*), (*iii*) and (*v*) Government are not prepared to publish this information.

(*iv*) In the absence of complete information regarding the weights of all détenus, Government are not prepared to publish a statement of this nature.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (i) of starred question No. CI.

I.

List showing the names of persons detained under Regulation III of 1818.

Amrita Lal Sarkar, Rabindra Mohan Sen Gupta, Jadu Gopal Mukharji, Satish Chandra Pakrashi, Monoranjan Gupta, Bhupati Mazumdar, Bhupendra Kumar Datta, Jyotish Chandra Ghosh, Kali Prasad Banarji, Jiban Lal Chatarji, Arun Chandra Guha, Kiran Chandra Mukharji, Satish Chandra Chakrabartti, Purna Chandra Das, Bepin Behari Ganguli, and Pratul Chandra Ganguli.

II.

List of persons detained under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act including those in domicile as well as those in jail.

Panchanan Chakrabartti, Surendra Mohan Shaha, Surendra Nath Singh, Ambika Charan Chakrabartti, Ananta Lal Singh, Lal Mohan Ghosh, Satcowri Banarji, Narendra Nath Banarji, Panna Lal Mitra, Prithwis Chandra Basu, Kshitish Chandra Basu, Manindra Nath Sen Gupta, Baman Chandra Chakrabartti, Kshitish Chandra Ray, Mahendra Nath Das, Ananta Kumar Haldar, Shiba Sankar Brahmachari, Ajit Kumar Gupta, Promode Chandra Ghosh, Sachindra Nath Maulik, Nanindra Kumar Chaudhuri, Kshetra Mohan Singh, Satish Ranjan Singh, Manindra Chandra Chakrabartti, Amulya Mukharji, Tara Prasanna De, Sailendranath Das Gupta, Atul Chandra Ray, Himangshu Basu Ray, Amulya Chandra Adhikari, Kalipada Bagchi, Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, Pratul Chandra Bhattacharji, Kshitish Chandra Banarji, Nani Gopal Mukharji, Nripendra Nath Mazumdar, Jatindra Chandra Bhattacharji, Purna Chandra Acharya Chaudhuri, Kiran Chandra De, Purnananda Das Gupta, Ashit Nath Bhattacharji, Kali Jiban Basu, Paramananda De, Tarini Bhushan Shome, Kali Kumar Sen Gupta, Subodh Chandra Nag, Debendra Nath Roy, Jitendra Nath Mukharji, Jogesh Chandra Chatarji, Nibaran Chandra Pal, Kalipada Ray Chaudhuri, Amarendra Nath Basu, Nagendra Sekhar Chakrabartti, Probhat Chandra De, Kula Chandra Singha Ray, Santosh Kumar De, Ramesh Chandra Das Gupta, Abdul Rashid, Santosh Kumar Datta, Ambika Charan Khan, Ajit Kumar Maitra, Benoyendra Mohan Chaudhuri, Jitesh Chandra Lahiri, Binode Behari Chakrabartti, Probhat Chakrabartty, Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Amar Krishna Ghosh, Trailakhya Charan Chakrabartti, Madan Mohan Bhaumik, Madhab Chandra Bagh, Hari Kumar Chakrabartti, Satyendra Chandra Mitra, Subhas Chandra Basu, Anil Baran Ray, Suresh Chandra Bharadwaj

Narayan Chandra Banarji, Angshu Prakash Banarji, Anukul Chandra Mukharji, Ranajit Kumar Banarji, Ananda Kishore Mazumdar, Naresh Chandra Datta Chaudhuri, Girindra Nath Banarji, Aswini Kumar Ganguli, Ramendra Nath Das, Ganesh Chandra Ghosh, Pramananda Datta, Sushil Kumar Banarji, Kali Sankar Ganguli, Sachindra Nath Sanyal, Dwijendra Nath Das, Nagendra Nath Sen, Ramesh Chandra Acharji, Sudhangshu Adhicari, Brajendra Kumar Brahma, Charu Chandra Adhikari, Ashutosh Kahili, Santosh Kumar Mitra, Jogesh Chandra Chakrabartti, Subodh Lahiri, Nripendra Nath Mukharji, Nalini Mohan Sarkar, Atindra Mohan Ray Chaudhuri, Gopendra Lal Ray, Satish Chandra De, Priya Lal Nag, Kumud Bandhu Nag, Charu Bikash Dutta, Shyama Kumar Ghosh, Khagesh Bardhan, Sudhir Kishore Bose, Nalini Mohan Dutta, Narendra Nath Sen, Ramesh Chandra Dutta Chaudhuri, Upendra Nath Banarji, Amarendra Nath Chatarji, Atul Krishna Ghosh, Girija Sankar Chaudhuri, Dhirendra Nath Chakrabartti, Jatindra Nath Das, Nirayan Sen Gupta, Bibhuti Bhussan Chatarji, Panna Lal Mukharji, Mon Mohan Bhattacharji, and Rajendra Kumar Das.

Civil Judicial Work.

*CII. **Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that more than 14 per cent. of cases have increased in the Civil Courts of Bengal within the last 10 years?

(*b*) If so, do the Government propose to increase the cadre of the Munsifs to meet these increases?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that Judicial officers are often pressed for quantity of work?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: (*a*) During the years 1915 to 1924 inclusive the average yearly institutions were 5 per cent. *above* the figures of 1915. During the years 1922 to 1924 however the yearly average has been 6 per cent. *below* the figures of 1915.

(*b*) Government have no such intention at present.

(*c*) It is the desire of Government that all their officers should be fully employed.

Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies, Chittagong, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions.

*CIII. **Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) how often the Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies of Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions had been to Calcutta during the last three years;

(*ii*) the period they spent in Calcutta each time; and

(*iii*) the cost to the Government for these journeys to and from, and halting in Calcutta?

(*b*) Were these moves out of jurisdiction directed by the Government or the Head of the Department?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*), and (*iii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) In some cases by Government and in some by the Head of the Department.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of the starred question No. CIII.

Name of officers.	Year.	Period spent in Calcutta each time.	Charges incurred on account of travelling allowance.	
			Mileage.	Halting allowance.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Dacca Division.	1922-23	12th to 17th July, 1922 ..	400 11 0	88 0 0
	1923-24	20th and 21st June, 1923.		
	1924-25	2nd to 8th July, 1924.		
		9th and 10th March, 1925.		
Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Rajshahi Division.	1922-23	10th to 18th July, 1922 ..	667 7 0	120 0 0
		24th to 28th September, 1922.		
		23rd to 28th December, 1922.		
		3rd and 4th January, 1923.		
	1923-24	5th to 14th July, 1923.		
		25th to 31st December, 1923.		
		6th to 10th January, 1924.		
	1924-25	2nd to 5th May, 1924.		
		3rd to 8th July, 1924.		
Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Chittagong Division.	1922-23	11th to 17th July 1922 ..	528 13 0	96 0 0
	1923-24	6th to 14th July, 1923.		
		15th to 20th August, 1923.		
	1924-25	4th to 8th July, 1924.		

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why the costs are not shown in every case in the statement?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: If the member wants the information he will come to me or to the Secretary and we will show him the figures.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Steps taken in connection with the Damodar Canal Scheme.

66. Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government in connection with the Damodar Canal Scheme as recommended by a conference held in December, 1925, in the District Board office of Hooghly?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: The intention of Government is to commence the construction of the canal next financial year and for this reason funds have been budgeted for in next year's budget.

Officers in the Executive Branch of the Central Jails.

67. Maulvi ZANNOOR AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of officers in the Executive Branch of the Central Jails in the years 1912, 1919 and 1925?

(*b*) Is it a fact that there were two clerks in the Executive Branch of the Central Jail in the year 1919?

(*c*) Is it a fact that there were five officers (Assistant Jailors) in the Executive Branch of the Central Jail in the year 1919?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for the abolition of the clerical staff from the Executive Branch of the Central Jail in the year 1920?

(*e*) Is it a fact that under the new scheme only one officer has been appointed to do all the executive work of the Central Jail?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: (*a*) A statement showing the number of Jailors, Deputy Jailors and Assistant Jailors attached to the Central Jails in the years 1912, 1918 and 1925 is laid on the table.

(*b*) There were two clerks in the general departments of the Presidency, Alipore and Midnapore Central Jails in 1919.

(*c*) The statement may be seen.

(*d*) Six clerks were abolished, and the number of Assistant Jailors was increased. This was done to secure uniformity with the general system under which both clerical and executive work was done by Assistant Jailors.

(*e*) No.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 67.

1912.

Alipore Central Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor and four Assistant Jailors.

Presidency Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor and three Assistant Jailors.

Midnapore Central Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor and two Assistant Jailors.

Dacca Central Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor and four Assistant Jailors.

Rajshahi Central Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor and three Assistant Jailors.

1919.

Alipore Central Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor, three Assistant Jailors and one temporary Assistant Jailor.

Presidency Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor, four Assistant Jailors and one temporary Assistant Jailor.

Dacca Central Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor, three Assistant Jailors, and one temporary Assistant Jailor.

Midnapore Central Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor, two Assistant Jailors and one temporary Assistant Jailor.

Rajshahi Central Jail. One Jailor, one Deputy Jailor and two Assistant Jailors.

Sanctioned strength in 1925 after revision.

Alipore Central Jail. One Jailor, and one Deputy Jailor.

Presidency Jail. One Jailor and one Deputy Jailor.

Midnapore Central Jail. One Jailor and one Deputy Jailor.

Dacca Central Jail. One Jailor and one Deputy Jailor.

Rajshahi Central Jail. One Jailor and one Deputy Jailor.

Forms of Road Cess statements.

68. Babu SATYA KISHORE BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any order has been issued to the effect that Road Cess statements must be written in the printed forms supplied by the Government at 9 pies per form;

(*b*) whether the Hon'ble Member is aware that the charge is considered to be very high by the people concerned; and

(*c*) why the public are not allowed to get similar forms printed from the printing press?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur, of Nadia): (*a*) and (*c*) There is an order to the effect that the forms of returns shall be printed and offered for sale, but there is no objection to such forms being supplied by the parties themselves, provided they are printed in the same form as those offered for sale and are on a good quality paper of foolscap size.

(*b*) No such complaint has been received.

Sheds for female passengers at the steamer stations.

69. Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Marine Department been drawn to the necessity of providing sheds for female passengers at the steamer stations, particularly at the junction and at large stations on the Goalundo to Narayanganj, Goalundo to Kaliganj and the Barisal routes?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: It has several times been represented by means of questions in this Council that sheds for female passengers are required at a number of steamer stations.

Appointment of Inspectors, Co-operative Societies.

70. Dr. MOHINI MOHAN DAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the appointment of Inspectors, outsiders having no knowledge of co-operative work are being taken in preference to the officers who have been working in the Department?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing for the years 1924 and 1925—

(*i*) the total number of appointments in the posts of Inspectors;

(*ii*) how many of them were made by departmental promotion; and

(*iii*) how many were made from amongst outsiders?

(*c*) Is it a fact that some of the auditors of the Department who had already been officiating as Inspectors for a year or so have since been made to revert?

(*d*) Is it a fact that with the reversion of the officiating Inspectors some officers junior to them as well as some outsiders have been appointed as Inspectors?

(*e*) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

(*f*) Is it a fact that in the year 1924 some auditors having lower educational qualifications were promoted to Inspectorship in supersession of many having higher qualifications and better records of service?

(*g*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for such supersession?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why the pay of the auditors has remained stationary?

(*i*) Is it a fact that a scheme for enhancement of their pay from the 1st September, 1922, was passed by the Council in the August session of 1922?

(*j*) If so, what are the reasons for not giving effect to the scheme?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) It has been the practice to fill up vacancies in the rank of Inspectors by the appointment of outsiders as well as by the promotion of suitable auditors.

(*b*) (*i*) to (*iii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The officers who had to revert did not prove suitable.

(*f*) In 1924 only one auditor with lower educational qualifications was promoted to Inspectorship. His record of service was not inferior to others.

(*g*) His case was treated as a special one.

(*h*) It was considered necessary that the pay and prospects of Inspectors should be improved first.

(*i*) and (*j*) A grant was obtained from the Legislative Council in August 1922 for revision of the pay of auditors, but the scheme was subsequently deferred in the interest of economy in expenditure. Proposals for giving effect to the scheme are now under the consideration of Government.

Statement referred to in the answer to clause (b) (i) to (iii) of unstarred question No. 70.

1924.—Number of appointment of Inspectors, 8; number recruited from auditors, 4; number recruited from outsiders and retrenched officers, 4 (two retrenched officers).

1925.—Number of appointment of Inspectors, 14; number recruited from auditors, 4; number recruited from outsiders and retrenched officers, 10 (three retrenched officers).

Recommendations of the Jails Committee.

71. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH CANGULY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the desirability of giving effect to the following recommendations of the Jails Committee:—

(*i*) that the designation of Assistant Jailer be changed to Deputy Jailer;

(*ii*) that the pay of the Deputy Jailers should be raised from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150 on a time-scale;

(*iii*) that the pay of Jailers should be not less than Rs. 200 and should rise at least to Rs. 450 on a time scale; and

(*iv*) that the Jailers should be gazetted officers?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state definitely when the Government will be in a position to come to a decision on the above points?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: (*a*) The recommendations of the Indian Jails Committee have been considered with the following results:—

(*i*) The recommendations was that the Executive Branch in Jails should be divided into two classes, Jailers and Deputy Jailers. This has been carried out.

(*ii*) The pay of Deputy Jailers has been fixed at Rs. 100—10/2—150.

(*iii*) The pay of Jailers has been raised to Rs. 200—25/2—300—25—350, with one post on Rs. 400.

(*iv*) This has not yet been decided.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Improvement of the Comilla Sadar Hospital.

72. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Medical) be pleased to state whether the Government have received any proposal from the Comilla Sadar Hospital authority for the improvement of the Hospital?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken on the proposal?

(*c*) If no action has been taken on the proposal, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Subject to the vote of the Legislative Council Government propose to grant half the cost of the improvement, on the understanding that the increased cost of upkeep will be met from local sources.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Scheme for opening the dam on the river Damodar near Fakirbera.

73. Mr. MAHBUBUL HUQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to furnish a statement giving the history, the steps taken, and the ultimate fate of the scheme for opening the dam on the river Damodar, near Kakirbera, under police-station Galsi, Burdwan?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the said scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India?

(*c*) If so, when was it sanctioned?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) The Damodar Canal Scheme, which is apparently referred to, and which has been receiving the consideration of this Government since 1906, was submitted to the Secretary of State for India for sanction in 1921 and received his sanction in March of the same year. The project and estimate were revised last year and administrative approval accorded in July, 1925. Hitherto, owing to financial stringency, Government have been unable to proceed with the execution of the scheme, but it has now been decided to make a start on it next year.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) In March, 1921.

Extension of the railway line from Dhamuah.

74. Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) be pleased to state when the work of the extension of the railway line from Dhamuah station on the southern section of the Eastern Bengal Railway, will be taken up?

(*b*) How far will the line be extended?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*a*) Shortly.

(*b*) Up to Lakshmikantapur.

Re-excavation of the Dhoramanna Khal in Howrah.

75. Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether it is proposed to re-excavate the Dhoramanna khal, in the district of Howrah, in the near future?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the matter has been pending before the Government for a long time?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) No.

(*b*) The khal is a private one, and it is for those interested to move in the matter by filing an application before the Collector under Act VI of 1920.

Water-hyacinth.

76. Maulvi RAJIB UDDIN TARAFDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to destroy *kachuri-pana* (water-hyacinth) in Bengal?

(*b*) If so, what steps have been taken?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer to parts (*a*) to (*j*) of starred question No. LXXXII, by Babu Naliniranjan Sarker at the meeting of the Council held on the 10th December, 1925. Certain experiments in connection with the life-history of the weed have since been undertaken by Dr. P. Brühl of the Calcutta University with the help of a Government grant. A lifting conveyor is now under construction for carrying on experiments in the mechanical handling and eradication of the plant.

Publication of a book named "Niyati."

77. Maulvi RAJIB UDDIN TARAFDAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Education (Registration) aware that the Muhammadan people of the Bogra district filed a petition before the District Magistrate against the publication of a book named "Niyati," by Babu Surendra Mohan Sen Mazumdar, at present the Sub-Registrar of Dhunat Registry Office, in the said district?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member also aware that the District Magistrate took up the inquiry?

(*c*) Has the Magistrate submitted his report in this connection?

(*d*) If so, what is his report?

(*e*) What steps, if any, are the Government going to take in this affair?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION [REGISTRATION] (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The District Magistrate submitted a report to the Inspector-General of Registration, but it was returned to him for further inquiry. The District Magistrate has made a further inquiry and his report is expected shortly.

(*d*) and (*e*) Under the above circumstances the questions do not arise.

Lee Commission Report.

78. Mr. P. N. GUHA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department aware that the Lee Commission Report (page 19) recommended—

(*i*) that an increase in the rate of promotion from the Provincial Civil Services was desirable; and

(*ii*) that 20 per cent. of the recruits should be obtained from that source in future?

(*b*) If so, what effect has up to date been given to that recommendation in Bengal?

(*c*) If the recruitment has not yet reached 20 per cent, as recommended by the Lee Commission, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason as to why it has not been reached?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating giving immediate effect to the recommendations of the Lee Commission and recruiting more candidates from both the branches of the Provincial Civil Service to make up the requisite number?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Effect has not yet been given to the recommendation.

(*c*) and (*d*) The local Government are still in correspondence with the Government of India on the subject.

Waiting-room and godowns at Lalmai on Assam-Bengal Railway.

79. Maulvi ASIMUDDIN AHAMAD: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the year ending 31st December, 1925, the number of passengers and the parcels booked at each of the following Assam-Bengal Railway stations, viz., Lalmai, Bhingra, Chitoushi, Nangalkat, Rajapur and Nayanpur?

(*b*) Are there any waiting-room and godown in each of those stations?

(*c*) What arrangements have been made for waiting accommodation of the passengers and for keeping parcels at those stations for the night and especially during the rainy season?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the railway authorities are contemplating arranging for waiting-room and godowns for parcels at the Lalmai station?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) There are female waiting-rooms at Bhinga and Nayanpur. The other stations have only the ordinary verandah shelter. All these stations have combined parcels and oil godowns.

(*c*) The reply is given in (*b*) above.

(*d*) The Railway Administration is considering the provision of a female waiting-room at Lalmai. No separate godown exclusively for parcels is considered to be necessary by the Railway authorities.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 79, showing number of passengers and parcels booked during the year ended 31st December, 1925.

Station.—Lalmai. Number of passengers.—61,383. Number of parcels.—348.

Station.—Bhingra. Number of passengers.—80,335. Number of parcels.—468.

Station.—Chitosi Road. Number of passengers.—47,713. Number of parcels.—402.

Station.—Kangalkot. Number of passengers.—20,079. Number of parcels.— 726.

Station.—Rajapur. Number of passengers.—54,254. Number of parcels.—337.

Station.—Nayanpur. Number of passengers.—84,357. Number of parcels. —490.

Return of landed properties of Government servants.

80. Maulvi MD. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state whether there is a Government order requiring all officers to submit an annual return of their landed and house properties acquired during the year?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: Yes.

Disposal of unclaimed dead bodies in dispensaries.

81. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state -

(*i*) whether the funeral rites of an unclaimed dead body in a charitable dispensary are performed in accordance with the religious tenets of the person dead; or

(*ii*) whether such unclaimed dead is carried and disposed of by the sardars (methors) without any celebration of funeral rites?

(*b*) What steps have been taken to put a stop to the practice referred to in (*ii*)?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) (*i*) *Muhammadans.*—Under orders of Government issued in 1924 unclaimed bodies in State hospitals are either made over to a Muhammadan Association or are buried with the proper rites at Government expense. The desirability of following a similar practice in local fund hospitals has been impressed on local bodies.

Hindus. Not unless any individual or association volunteers to take over the body for the purpose.

(*ii*) *Muhammadans.*—Not in Government hospitals.

Hindus.—The bodies are cremated or buried by domes or sweepers if no one else offers to take them over.

(*b*) Nothing can be done unless individuals or associations come forward to take over corpses.

Piece-workers of Government Press.

82. Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department aware that some of the regular piece-workers in the Government Press have not yet been taken into the permanent cadre?

(*b*) Is it a fact that new hands have been taken into the permanent cadre to the exclusion of regular piece-workers?

(*c*) If the answers to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why the claims of the regular piece-workers have been set aside?

MEMBER in charge of FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

General discussion of the Budget of the Government of Bengal.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Gentlemen of the Council, I wish to remind the hon'ble members that under section 89(3) rule 28(*b*) of the Bengal Legislative Council Rules and Standing Orders a time limit of 15 minutes has been fixed for speeches during the general discussion of the Budget on the 1st and 2nd March, except in the case of the Finance Member and other Members of Government who will explain the different items of the Budget.

Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE: Sir, this is the last budget of the 2nd Reformed Council. The next Council may begin with other members. A little of retrospection is therefore necessary. The two other budgets which we discussed during the last two years, as well this budget had been described as "deficit budgets". They were so only in name. But for the bugbear of provincial contributions they were "surplus budgets". In the light of subsequent events, when the provincial contribution has for the time being been suspended our revenue exceeded our expenditure and thus the Government had large surplus in hand.

In March, 1925, the financial year 1924-25 ended with a surplus of Rs. 58 lakhs in the revenue account. The expenditure was less by Rs. 23¼ lakhs from the estimates.

In the current year 1925-26 there have been increases in revenue from Stamps, Registration, Forests and other sources. Considerable savings have also taken place and it is estimated that the surplus would be over Rs. 33 lakhs.

Taking the opening balances, and excluding from the same the amount in reserve for the Famine Insurance Fund and the loan taken from the Government of India for the development of the Chittagong Port, we will begin the year 1926-27 with an opening balance of a little over two crores of rupees.

The Hon'ble the Finance Member is unable to undertake and provide for new expenditure because of the uncertainty as to the provincial contributions. We all hope the same will not be asked again. But with so many crying needs of the province, with illiteracy reigning supreme, with malaria and kala-azar creating ravages, with waterways and channals dried up and acute distress felt by the rural people from want of good drinking water, with pressing schemes of improvements in all directions not maturing for want of funds—I consider it a bad policy to lock up so much money, even if it be in fixed deposit with the Government of India, fetching interest. The Government of India might very well say "you plead inability to pay your contribution, you complain that you cannot develop your schemes for want of money, we remitted the contribution, but what did you do with your hoarding; like a miser you invested the amount and drew interest but did not spend the money for the good of the province. Therefore you better begin paying the contribution and we know how to spend the same".

The Hon'ble Finance Member expects in the coming year an income of Rs. 10,76,78,000 or an increase of Rs. 17 lakhs over this year's revised estimates—in addition to the opening balance of Rs. 2 crores. In allocating various amounts to the various departments he asked us to take a "broad view" of the various demands and has asked us to hold that his budget is a budget for the "nation building" departments. Shortness of time will not allow me to travel over the whole of the Financial Statement. I will, therefore, content myself by referring to some portions of it.

In the management of Government Estates, pay of establishment increases from Rs. 2,84,193 in 1924-25 to Rs. 5,38,147 in 1926-27; while agricultural improvements dwindle from Rs. 1,58,045 to Rs. 65,000 only in the revised budget. In Survey and Settlement, the pay of officers increased from Rs. 1,76,531 in 1924-25 to Rs. 3,01,452, allowances increase by Rs. 53,000, supplies and service by nearly Rs. 3 lakhs. Though the income does not become more than that in the current year, the expenditure on this head alone increases by Rs. 6½ lakhs.

In the Registration Department, receipts show a steady increase during the last two years from Rs. 25 and odd lakhs to over Rs. 38 lakhs. The expenditure on that head is Rs. 19,04,000—just half of the receipts. And yet no increase in the pay, or improvement in the prospects, of the Sub-Registrar is made. I consider them to be public servants doing their duties in unhealthy surroundings, in the interior of the districts, with no regular accommodation even to live or to hold their offices. I have seen them living in thatched huts, prey to disease and all manner of discomforts—persons coming from middle class *bhadralog* families with education and culture. I hope the Government will show some sympathy for this class of public servants.

As regards Irrigation, including drainage, I trust, in consultation with District and Local Boards, schemes would be prepared to take up the most urgent cases in each district, so that malaria may disappear However much we may spend on quinine and anti-malarial operations, the primary cause of malaria is the water-logged condition of the villages, with no proper drainage. This is also a part of the Public Health problem and contributions should be made to each district suitable to its needs.

Sir, I consider that the Commissioners are useless superfluities which must be soon done away with. The whole province is almost unanimous that these officers are no longer necessary.

It is a touchy subject, Sir, the staff and household of His Excellency the Governor. His bodyguard and band establishments and tour expenses are subjects of adverse comment here and elsewhere. Without making any irritating comment I would suggest that the Government would suggest some reductions in the everincreasing and not much profitable expenditure.

Coming, Sir, to the Administration of Justice, I am much disappointed in not finding any provision made for increased accommodation in the District Judges' Court at 24-Parganas, Alipore. At the last meeting of the Standing Judicial Committee we passed an amount for construction of a second storey over the Subordinate Judges' Court Building and we thought that the additions would be taken up next year. I still hope that in the supplementary budget provision will be made for the same. I am at the same time thankful for the provision for installation of electric lights and fans in the Alipore District Magistrates' Courts which was a crying need. Mr. H. C. Liddell promised also to extend the Bar Library attached to the District Magistrates' Court and I trust provision will be made for it in the supplementary budget. A room 16′ × 16′ is an apology for a Bar Library with over 100 pleaders as members. It is a veritable Black Hole. The result is, in sun and rain, most of them have to remain outside.

I sent a resolution to effect savings in the General Administration by the extended utilisation of man-power by investing experienced

Sub-Deputy Magistrates with first class powers. The same was disallowed by the President as being "argumentative". What are we here for—to argue and argue still, though often vanquished. I hope the subject will receive the attention of Government.

Sir, I am not disposed to grant an increased expenditure of a lakh of rupees in the Jail budget or to vote for a single pice on that head after the ugly disclosures made by Colonel Mulvany and the systematic ill-treatment of political prisoners and détenus. No doubt if we succeed in throwing out that budget, the amounts specified therein will be certified. But how else can we show our protest, I was going to say our abhorrence, for the existing state of things in the administration of Jail. At page 225 of the Financial Statement we find a provision of Rs. 72,000 under "Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges" for internees and détenus. But if that sum is not sufficient for meeting the needs and wants, not to say of the little comforts, of this class of prisoners, *e.g.*, the performance of their religious rites and ceremonies, a larger amount should be provided for, otherwise the whole budget on that head should be thrown out. People do not go on hunger-strike for pleasure or for the fun of the thing unless there is a deep-rooted discontent at the manner in which they are treated.

Coming now to the pet children of Government, the pampered police force, we find that in 1923 the expenditure on Police amounted to Rs. 1,76,92,000. In 1924 there was an increase over that amount by Rs. 2,51,000. In the current year, 1925-26, the revised estimate shows the expenditure to be Rs. 1,83,12,000, *i.e.*, an increase of Rs. 3,69,000 over the amount for the year 1924. In the budget we are discussing, the increase amounts to Rs. 3,97,000. In other words the increase in three years from the figure of 1923-24 comes up to Rs. 10,17,000. At this rate of increase in the nation-crushing department, it is an idle boast of the Hon'ble Mr. Donald that his budget is a budget for the nation-building departments, because he has provided for some increased grants in the Education, the Medical and the Public Health Departments. We are obliged to him for the increased allotments and we thank him as he had paid some heed to our criticisms year after year here on the floor of the House during budget discussions.

As representing the Calcutta University Constituency, I am glad that a grant is proposed to be made for five years—though we very much wished the Government to introduce a Bill like the Dacca University Bill—making the grant a statutory one. The interests of Muhammadan education is well met by a provision of over Rs. 10 lakhs and the Dacca University gets nearly that amount. I do not grudge those grants. But compared to them the grant to the Calcutta University is a niggardly one. But, Sir, I am disappointed that no real provision has been made to increase the pay of the teachers or to provide adequate amount for a teachers' provident fund. The question of secondary

education is still in a nebulous state and no serious attempt has been made to solve the question. Of the total increase in the Medical Department over Rs. 3 lakhs go towards increase in the pay of officers and of the establishment. I still maintain that the amounts proposed to be spent to prevent malaria and for kala-azar survey are inadequate and the conditions under which they will be spent, will make much of the amount remain unspent at the end of the year. Though a provision is made for Rs. 2½ lakhs for rural water-supply, it looks like an eye wash, for much of the amount will not be spent, because of the two conditions insisted on by Government, *viz.*, local contribution should ordinarily be spent before any part of the Government grant is disbursed, and works executed by local authorities must be certified to have been satisfactorily completed. Much correspondence, much red-tapism, will ensue between the Local Government and the local bodies, through the official channel of the Commissioner and the District Magistrate, and before any decision could be arrived at, the year will be out—it will not wait even for the almighty British Government. We will find ultimately that not even half of the amount will be spent.

My time is up. I cannot discuss the other items in the budget. When we came here we came with the intention not to discuss the Government budget but to prepare our own budgets for the administration of our own province. But that seems to be a distant dream. I will content myself, therefore, by supporting that particular budget known as "Ports and Pilotage". I will vote for the whole amount under that head, and even vote for more, in the hope that the Ports will be kept open, not for the ingress of British merchandise, but for Britishers to leave India and Pilots will be ready to escort them to the mid ocean so that they may not come back to shake the Pagoda Tree, over and over again.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: Sir, I would begin by quoting the words of the Hon'ble the Finance Member, "although the nightmare of our provincial contribution has ceased to disturb us, and although it has been remitted but temporarily" and although we may safely assume that the contribution will not be levied again we are exceedingly pained to see that the Budget of 1926-27 has not come up to our expectations. I will not go into details of the budget but shall discuss some of its salient features. There is no more any necessity to make provision for provincial contribution of 63 lakhs of rupees according to Meston Award. We were told sometime ago and we expected that at least ⅔rds of this amount, *viz.*, about 45 lakhs of rupees would be spent on what are known as the transferred subjects. Add to this sum of rupees twelve lakhs from the increase in Registration fees. We thought that at least these two amounts, *viz.*, forty-four lakhs *plus* twelve lakhs would be available for the transferred subjects in addition to the normal expenditures on these subjects. I shall show that nothing like this

amount has been provided for in the Budget in these subjects. I shall deal with this question from another point of view. We find from the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Member that he expects to get a total increase of Rs. 26½ lakhs from Stamps which is a transferred subject and Rs. 12 lakhs from Registration fees. The total of these two items comes up to more than 38 lakhs of rupees. I should like to ask the Hon'ble Finance Member if in the Budget that he has placed before us he has given even this amount to the transferred subjects over and above the ordinary expenditures on those subjects. I shall now place the expenditures on the Spending Departments, *viz.*, such items as Education, Medical, Public Health, etc.

In 1925-26 the Budget estimate under the head "Education" was Rs. 1,20,67,000, the Revised estimate was Rs. 12,24,600, whereas in the present Budget the amount put down is Rs. 1,22,76,000, *i.e.*, there has been an increase by about Rs. 30,000.

In the "Medical Department" you will find that in the Budget estimates of 1925-26 there was a provision for Rs. 45,83,000, whereas in the Revised estimates you find a provision of Rs. 38,24,688. This year the estimate is Rs. 47,87,000, so there is an increase of about Rs. 4,00,000 on this head.

In the "Public Health Department" we have a provision of Rs. 7,52,000 in the Budget estimates of 1925-26. The Revised estimate for that year, however, is for Rs. 7,83,000. In the present Budget we have an estimate of Rs. 8,10,000, so there is an additional amount of Rs. 58,000.

In the "Agricultural Department" the expenditure is put down at Rs. 18,38,000 in the year 1925-26. In the Revised estimate in that year it is put down at Rs. 17,12,000. In the Budget estimate for this year it is put down at Rs. 19,70,000, *i.e.*, we have an additional expenditure of Rs. 1,32,000.

In the "Industries Department" we have in the Budget estimate of the year 1925-26 an amount of Rs. 1,12,50,000. In the Revised estimate of that year we have Rs. 11,18,000 and in the Budget of this year we have an amount of Rs. 11,87,000, *i.e.*, an excess expenditure of Rs. 71,000.

These are the principal heads of expenditures of the transferred departments so if we add the additional amounts which have been put down on the expenditure sides of the transferred subjects or what are popularly known as the nation-building departments we find that an additional amount of Rs. 6,24,000 are put down. So even the additional amount realised or expected to be realised from the Registration Department is not spent on the transferred departments. We find in the

Budget a miserable sum of 2½ lakhs of rupees on rural water-supply instead of Rs. 10 lakhs and we find that the patients in the hospitals have still to pay for their treatment.

When immediately after the Reformed Councils had come into existence we were asked to pass and as a matter of fact we did pass three taxation Bills, *viz.*, The Court Fees Act, Stamp Act and the Amusement Tax Act in one single year. We were then distinctly assured that seventy per cent. of the additional income derived from these taxes would be spent on the transferred subjects. What, however, was the result? Very small amount was spent over and above the normal expenditure on those subjects. There are some members of this Council who pressed upon the Government the desirability of passing these Acts as temporary measures, *i.e.*, for not more than 3 years and they said that these Acts should be repealed as soon as the Government tided over the then difficult situation. The taxes are now, however, permanent taxes and the Government is trying to impose additional taxation for the administration and general welfare of the country. I hope the Government will pardon me for saying so but nevertheless there has been a breach of faith on the part of the Government in this matter.

Whereas we have been agitating for reducing cost of administration the Bureaucracy has been agitating for increasing their emoluments. We passed a resolution in this Council so far back as February, 1921, for reducing expenditures and a committee was appointed by the Governor in Council by a resolution of Government, dated the 18th June, 1922, to make recommendations for effecting all possible reductions in the expenditure of the Local Government. We had on the other hand the Lee's Commission by which instead of any retrenchment there has been increase in expenditure on account of the additional emoluments of the covenanted servants of the Crown. I give a specific example. One of the recommendations of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee was the abolition of the post of the Commissioners of Divisions by which there would have been a net reduction of Rs. 5,20,000. The matter went so far that a very high official asked me once would the members approve of the retention of the services of 2 Commissioners instead of 5 and this as an experimental measure. We again find the following in a resolution of the Government of Bengal, dated the 13th June, 1922: "In August another Committee was appointed at the request of the Council to consider the possibility of abolishing the post of the Divisional Commissioners. Neither of these Committees has as yet succeeded in arriving at any conclusion on the problem set before it." We should like to ask whether the Government has succeeded in arriving at any conclusion on the problem of the abolition of the Divisional Commissioners? If so, why has not the decision of the Government been made known so long. Is it not a fact that it is useless to

burden the Division Commissioners with any work in connection with Municipalities and District Boards or even as regards revenue matters? I have pointed out this one item just to show how Government treats with indifference all attempts on the part of the members of this Council or even of the public, specially questions in which a vested interest of the Bureaucracy is involved. It is necessary for the non-official members of this Council to point out these facts to the Government more than once lest not we but they forget.

I have mentioned these facts for the simple reason that there is already heard distant rumblings of fresh taxation and I can assure Government that it will be very difficult for the Government to impose any additional taxes, however laudable the purpose may be, unless the people are satisfied that Government have done their best to carry out all possible retrenchments in the general administration of the country. While on the financial aspect of the Budget, I should like to know what attempts have been made by the Government of Bengal to bring money which legitimately belongs to Bengal. Are we to rest content by simply getting rid of the annual contribution of Rs. 63,00,000? What about the export duty on Jute? It now comes to nearly Rs. 3½ crores and income-tax which is a very large amount. Lord Meston admitted that Bengal is legally entitled to a good slice out of the export duty on jute. It is therefore necessary that we should not remain silent but should agitate till justice is done to Bengal and what now seems to be a settled fact is unsettled.

I find in page 47 of the Budget Estimate a sum of Rs. 4,680 for the payment of the conveyance allowance to the religious teachers in jails. I am glad that there is religious teaching in jails. As a non-official visitor in the Alipore Central Jail, I suggested the desirability of religious teachings to the Hindu prisoners in the Alipore Central Jail but I was told that there is no such provision. The Christian Missionaries and Muhammadan Moulanas are allowed to do so and they get conveyance allowance. I would therefore suggest to Government that some provision however small may be made in the Budget for such teaching to Hindu prisoners.

While on the subject of jails I would suggest to Government that a sum of money should be allotted for mosquito-curtains to prisoners in jails. I am told that such curtains are allowed simply to what are known as special class prisoners. Ordinary humanity requires that you should supply curtains to prisoners for we cannot expect that a prisoner should work whole day and then to pass sleepless nights bitten by mosquitoes. It is not a luxury but a necessity and I would suggest that this matter should be taken up at once by Government and provision be made for supplying curtains unless the Government is in a position to make jails mosquito-free.

While on this subject I am sorry to state that there is separate class of non-official visitors for the ordinary prisoners including political prisoners and those who are known as State prisoners or detenus under Regulation III or under the Ordinance. It is not known why the Government should have this distinction and what should the public think of Government that a gentleman of the position of Maharaj Kumar Sirish Chandra Nandy is not allowed to visit the State prisoners in the Berhampore Jail. One should like to know the qualifications of such visitors.

I am glad to find that a sum of Rs. 16,000 non-recurring is going to be allotted to Lewis Jubilee Sanatorium at Darjeeling. I think a larger amount would have been welcome but we ought to be content with small mercies.

We find a very small amount set apart for Sericulture. I think the needs of that Department are much larger than that could be satisfied by the amount budgeted for. If proper endeavours are made for the improvement of Sericulture it may give useful occupation to many of our young men who are pining away for want of employment.

In the Civil Budget Estimate, page 201, we find under the head "Industrial Education" a sum of Rs. 21,000 put down under the head "Inspection". I shall be glad to know why such a large amount is put down under this head and what is the utility of these inspections.

We have to pay a large amount per annum as rent for holding our Legislative Council in the Town Hall. Plans have already been made for a new Council Building just facing the present building. Now that the prices of building materials have all gone down, the old estimates may be revised and some amount, say, one lakh of rupees may be set apart this year just to make a beginning in the building of the new Council Chamber.

I have made certain criticisms in the Budget of this year. In the Budget of Bihar and Orissa Government, seventy per cent. of the income of the province is allotted to what are known as transferred subjects and this has been going on under an Indian Finance Minister for the last three years.

Whatever may be the demerits of Diarchy they have been made worse by the transferred departments not having a Financial Secretary of their own. We hope the day is fast approaching when the bar that now separates the reserved and transferred departments will be removed and the Government of the province will be placed entirely in the hands of the elected representatives of the people, when the step-motherly affection of the bureaucratic Finance Member will cease, when sincere endeavours will be made for reducing expenditure on general administration and more money will be spent on Education, Primary, Secondary and Technical, when the people will get more pure water to drink and

medical relief would be given to the poor and the indigent without having to pay for it. We do not want old-age pensions in this country. We want that the people of this country should have two meals a day and have their ordinary wants attended to.

NAWAB MUSHARRUF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I am glad to observe that we start the year 1926-27 with a big opening balance of two crores, twenty-six lakhs, and thirty-two thousand, a part of which has been invested with the Government of India upon which we draw interest. I do not know what the latter sum is and how much interest can we expect from this investment. The Hon'ble the Finance Member should not have kept us in the dark in this matter. Although such invest can safely be allowed for a small portion of the balance, it is not safe to invest in any such security a large portion of the balance after the painful experience the country had in the sudden fall of the price of the Government security from Rs. 100 to Rs. 68 and still less at the commencement of the last war. The balance or rather a part of it should be deposited with the Imperial Bank at some interest for a certain period instead of incurring a risk of fluctuation in the price of Government security.

Sir, with this general remark on the general finances, I now pass on to the Education Budget. We are grateful to the Government and especially to those members of the Bengal Council who voted for the establishment of the Islamia College to be opened in July next for the education of the Muhammadan boys. I would ask the indulgence of this House to do something more for the backward community to which I belong. Circumstanced as we are, we cannot avail ourselves of the present institutions which have been provided by the Government for the education of the girls of this province. Strict *purdah* system that our girls are to observe and the moral and religious instructions that are necessary for the education of our girls stand in the way of our availing of the benefits of those institutions. The House will be mortified to learn that in Calcutta there does not exist a Muhammadan girls' school up to the Matriculation standard. I would invite the attention of the Hon'ble the Finance Member now in charge of Education to remove this long-felt want of my community and to establish a Government girls' school in Calcutta for the Muhammadan girls. If the Government likes, the Sakhawat Memorial Girls' School may be converted into a High School and Government may locate the same in a decent house in the Muhammadan quarter of the city. The whole scheme will not be a very expensive one and I hope the Hon'ble Member in charge of Education will earn our gratitude by establishing a High English School for the *purdahnashin* Muhammadan girls of Calcutta.

Maharajkumar SRIS CHANDRA NANDY: The Hon'ble the Finance Member can well be congratulated on his task this year as he

has been able to plan his Provincial Finances freed from the usual nightmare of the annual contribution and the spectre of a deficit. We thank him that he has been able to adjust his resources without the proposal of any new taxation, for which there is hardly any room, and for his assurance that, although the anticipated expenditure would exceed the estimated revenue by Rs. 20½ lakhs in the coming year, the deficit would be easily met from the balances on hand.

It caused me, Sir, no little concern when I found that it has been ruled this year that the general discussion on the Budget would not extend beyond 2 days. My disappointment was no less when I gathered that the reason for such time-limit was that by the general discussion we do nothing but make just a "roaming discussion" of the Budget. Sir, we have no hand or control in the preparation and the execution of the Budget. It is only with the voting aspect thereof that we are concerned. It is at this stage that we, the representatives of the people, are afforded an opportunity to discuss questions of policy and problems of general interest, express the wishes of our electors to the Government, lay before it their needs and grievances and press for supplies on heads that have either escaped its notice or have been inadequately provided for. In other words, Sir, it is through this sort of discussion that we of the Legislature control in some degree the general policy of the Executive, and if, Sir, this right is sought to be restricted, it amounts to curtailment of our responsibility as non-official members. We have been told on the other hand to reserve our comments till the actual voting on the supplies comes on. But the time-limit then too, will be no less restricted and what with the long string of amendments and what with the hurry and scurry to get through the large number of items, the chances for a general discussion are sure to be greatly eliminated at that stage as well.

Sir, this year at least I find the Government has shown itself somewhat amenable to past criticisms by its rather liberal grants towards the nation-building departments. And although it is reassuring to find that still more money would be available for Education, Public Health and Public Works I should have liked some specific allotments for Child Welfare and Maternity Benefit. I extremely doubt, Sir, whether the conditions that the Government has laid down for the spread of Primary Education would ever be fulfilled. The grant to the Calcutta University should have been made recurring and put on a permanent basis instead of for 5 years. It is a matter of sincere gratification that Primary and Secondary education has been kept on a par with University education. But there should have been some specific allotment for the increase of pay of poor school teachers as promised last year. Four thousand for such a potential movement as the Boy Scouts is really disappointing. On Public Health, Sir, I venture to suggest that to combat Malaria and Kala-azar and the epidemics only foundation of dispensaries and distribution of stock medicines and

usual injections would not be thought quite enough. The root causes of those diseases have to be grappled with. Steps should be taken to supplement popular efforts by liberally providing for pure water-supply, by excavation of tanks and wells and renovation of attenuated waterways, by clearing up of jungles and by improving general sanitary conditions.

Sir, as I pass through Agriculture I could not help feeling great disappointment. Excepting construction of a few farms here and there I found no where mention of any arrangements for the spread of agricultural education. Nor did I gather from anywhere any information of the practical operations that the department proposed to achieve with such an inflated staff of officers and experts. For an agricultural population improvement in the breed of cattle and foundation of agricultural banks are essentially needed. And in order to make agricultural operations effective the silted-up *bils* and canals have to be resuscitated and railways are to be induced to put up bridges and culverts on their embankments to afford the natural flow of water an unimpeded course.

My despair is no less, Sir, when I come to Industries. All the declared activities seem to centre round some weaving schools and the strengthening of the Tangra Research Tannery. Sad it is to behold that there has been no indication anywhere to meet popular aspirations to solve congestion and unemployment by the founding of more technical and technological institutions. Evidently I believe for its non-effectiveness the much-criticised Griffiths' spray for the destruction of Hyacinth pest has not been mentioned this year, although I feel nervous not to have had any definite idea of what kind the next experiment would be for which 50 thousand rupees is proposed to be spent. We are also ignorant of the details and achievements of the rather unknown Forest Department although, it appears, that the grant on that score is something like Rs. 13 lakhs.

Sir, my great regret is that the Hon'ble the Finance Member has not thought fit to enlighten the legislature on the increase that the recommendations of the Lee Commission would involve our finances although it loomed so large in his last year's Budget Speech. He has equally belied our expectations in not disclosing what items have been axed by way of retrenchment.

I am pleased to note that this year the Excise Revenue has not yielded the desired result and should have felt rather delighted if its revenue had left a deficit. The income from Stamps has made more than amends for the loss on Excise although the augmentation in Stamp revenue brings no cheer to my heart as that indicates excess of litigation meaning thereby impoverishment of the poor and ultimate creation of bad blood.

It is again with great concern, Sir, I notice that the Police expenses are as inflated as ever against all popular clamours. The Bengal Retrenchment Committee presided over by one of the most level-headed financiers recommended the Police expenditure at Rs. 26 lakhs. But that is brushed aside. We find on the other hand that this year there has been an increase of about Rs. 4½ lakhs more than last year and the total amount rests at Rs. 1 crore 87 lakhs exceeding even the General Administration by nearly Rs. 70 lakhs. The pampered Police, Sir, is to absorb the largest portion of the revenue, and notwithstanding the gravest anxiety of the administration for their health and upkeep, the corps is manifestly deteriorating as otherwise how can we account for dacoities and outrages which are daily increasing?

Of the New Schemes I feel much relieved that this year provision has been made to amplify facilities for the teaching of Midwifery in the Calcutta Medical College. While I cannot but congratulate the Jiaganj Mission on their reception of Rs. 65 thousand as grant for the Zenana Hospital, I cannot help the suggestion that we could have supplemented each others efforts if they had selected Berhampore for its site where before long, as announced, we are going to have a full-fledged Medical School with attached hospitals.

A substantial grant has been allotted to Jails and Convict Settlements. Nevertheless my disappointment is great that even this year the Borstal System has not been introduced in our prisons and it remains yet a matter of proposal only. We are left also in the dark as to why our prison reforms are delayed so long although we are credibly informed that the Burma Government has already initiated them. We are unacquainted as well about what has been done to revise the scale of pay of the poorly-paid Jail staff for whose miserable condition some pity at least was felt last year.

Sir, my cry will perhaps again be in a wilderness if I am to repeat again this year that the premium one has to pay for one's innocent entertainments should have gone by the abolition of the Entertainment Tax universally condemned as a wholly unpopular measure.

Lastly, I may tell you, Sir, that we shall never rest satisfied until the inequities of the Meston Settlement are wholly removed, until the Police expenditure is reduced to reasonable limits and until 50 per cent. of the revenue will be spent on Nation-Building Departments.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: The expenditure for 1926-27, exclusive of expenditure outside the Revenue Account, is estimated to exceed the income of the year by Rs. 20½ lakhs. No special circumstances have been urged by the Finance Member in favour of the unusual step taken by him. The revenue of the coming year is expected to be larger than that of the current year by several lakhs. Besides, the remission of the provincial contribution has removed a heavy burden

from the shoulders of the province. One, therefore, naturally wonders why a deficit Budget is presented by the Government. To budget for a deficit in a normal year is contrary to all canons of sound public finance, and the course of action proposed to be taken by the Hon'ble Mr. Donald appears to me to be wholly unjustifiable.

During the last three years the expenditure of the Government of Bengal was as follows: 1922-23, Rs. 9 crores and 59 lakhs; 1923-24, Rs. 9 crores and 78 lakhs; 1924-25, Rs. 9 crores and 76 lakhs. But there has been a sudden jump during the current year, the expenditure amounting to Rs. 10 crores and 45 lakhs, according to the revised estimates; and for the coming year an expenditure of Rs. 10 crores and 97 lakhs is provided. In other words, the expenditure for 1926-27 is expected to exceed the expenditure for the current year by more than half a crore and that of 1924-25 by a crore and 21 lakhs. This upward tendency of expenditure ought to make the Government pause and ponder, for unless it is checked in time it is sure to land the authorities in disaster at no distant date.

Coming to the details of expenditure, I find that a portion of the additional expenditure is to be incurred for worthy objects. It is a matter for some satisfaction that the claims of education on the State funds have been recognised by the grant of Rs. 6 lakhs over and above the expenditure for the current year. I sincerely congratulate the Government on the dawn of its sense of duty as evidenced by its "unconditional surrender" to the University in the matter of financial assistance. I should have been still more glad if the entire sum of Rs. 3 lakhs demanded by the University authorities had been provided in the Budget. It is, however, a matter for regret that no mention is made in the Budget of the sum of Rs. 2 lakhs required by the University for putting up the third storey of the Ashutosh Building. The work of the teaching department of the University is suffering very badly for want of accommodation, and the University authorities have brought this matter to the notice of the Government again and again. I do hope and trust that there will be no further delay in meeting this urgent need. The additional sums provided for the Medical and Public Health Departments will, I have no doubt, command the cordial support of the Council.

Let me now turn to the other side of the picture. Some retrenchment was made in expenditure under the head "Police" in 1923-24 in compliance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. But in the following year there was an increase of rupees two and a half lakhs, and the revised estimate of the current year shows a further increase of Rs. 3 lakhs and 69 thousand. The Budget for the ensuing year goes still further and provides an additional sum of Rs. 4 lakhs. The total addition to Police expenditure in the course of three years thus

amounts to over Rs. 10 lakhs. I feel it my duty to enter my emphatic protest against this growth of expenditure. No fair-minded observer can help remarking that an expenditure of a crore and 87 thousand rupees in the Police department, absorbing, as it does, more than 17½ per cent. of the total revenue of the province, is too heavy a burden for the people to bear. The situation strikes one as even more curious when one finds that over and above this recurring expenditure, a sum of about Rs. 16 crores is provided in two years out of loan funds for Police buildings. Magnificent mansions for the Police! How beautiful they look? But what a contrast to the wretched dwelling-house of the average taxpayer of the province!

Another head of expenditure which is open to criticism is "Civil Works". Here, again, there was some diminution in 1923-24. The following year showed an increase of rupees two and a half lakhs. But the current year has been marked by a long leap forward, involving an additional expenditure of sixteen and a half lakhs of rupees; and this standard is to be maintained in the ensuing year. I cannot but regard the enormous sum of a crore and 11 lakhs of rupees as extravagant expenditure in the department of Civil Works.

Taking the two sides of the picture together, the elected members of the Council will perhaps feel thankful for the small mercies shown to the people in the shape of enhanced grants to Education and the Medical and Public Health Departments. But I am afraid they will hardly endorse the Hon'ble Mr. Donald's claim that "it is largely a Budget for what are often termed the nation-building departments". An able and patriotic Indian Finance Minister would surely have gone much further in the direction of assisting and developing the subjects on which depends the true welfare of the people. Such an individual would surely have made reasonable retrenchments in various directions and perhaps have devoted the entire sum of Rs. 63 lakhs saved to the Government of Bengal by the remission of the provincial contribution to schemes of sanitation and primary education which are the two most urgent needs of the province and which have always been neglected by the Government.

The Finance Member proposes to make his two ends meet by drawing upon the balances which stand at the credit of the Government. This policy of providing for recurring expenditure out of balances is financially unsound. It is also extremely undesirable to fritter away the balances in the manner proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Donald. In past years I urged the Government to set apart a substantial portion of the balances for non-recurring expenditure on sanitation. The total balance at the present moment amounts to rupees two and a quarter crores. Out of this sum about Rs. 10 lakhs belong to the Famine Insurance Fund. A sum of one crore will be more than sufficient as a working balance for the Government. I suggest that the remainder

be set apart to form the nucleus of a Sanitation Fund, and that all surpluses which may accrue in future be added to this Fund. A large balance always offers a temptation to the executive to indulge in extravagant expenditure, and it is time that the Government commenced a departure from its traditional policy in this regard.

Before concluding, I desire to say a word about the Meston Award. We all welcome the remission of the provincial contribution. But it is incumbent on the Government of Bengal to point out to the Government of India in clear and unambiguous language that this measure falls far short of the just demands of the province. Sir, allow me in this connection to refer to a matter which, though small in itself, throws some light on the attitude of the Central Government towards the provinces. In 1924-25, the Government of India agreed to reimburse to all provincial Governments the actual amounts paid by them as customs duties on stores. But in view of the remission of the contribution of the provinces, it has been decided by the Central Government not to make any assignment to Bengal in future. Any impartial observer is sure to characterise this act as one born of narrowness. Whatever that may be, neither the people nor the Government of this province will ever rest content until the Meston Settlement is unsettled. And no scheme of reforms, however excellent in itself, will be successfully worked in Bengal unless adequate resources are placed at the command of its people.

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH CANGULY: Sir, in presenting the Budget estimates for the ensuing year the Hon'ble the Finance Member has started with a vein of optimism which he has maintained throughout his long Budget Speech. It is quite apparent that the great bogey of provincial contribution having ceased to act as a nightmare, the disturbed equilibrium of the Hon'ble Member's temperament has been restored and he has, to quote his own words, been able to "devise schemes for the general improvement and amelioration of Bengal and its people". Well, this is beautiful language. But if language is the vehicle of concealing the thought of men, then I venture to say that the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Member is certainly a fair production for concealing the real policy of Government. I would sincerely appreciate and welcome the Budget announcements if I could find in them any change in the angle of vision, any genuine attempt to cheapen the costly form of the present administration, any honest effort to tackle the serious problems of unemployment, malaria, water scarcity and primary education. I have carefully scanned the puzzling figures of the Budget, which by the way has been cast differently from its predecessors, but no where have I been fortunate enough to meet anything like a generous response to our insistent demands. Where are those retrenchments for which the representatives of the people have been

clamouring for all these years, where again, is the relief to the over-burdened tax-payers of Bengal by removing or reducing some of the odius taxation under which they are groaning?

We have found from previous experience that very little good comes out of a detailed examination of Budget figures for not much notice is taken of such criticism by the Government. But as it has become customary to discuss some of the principal items at the time of the Budget discussions I would just comment on some of the items that seem to me rather important.

Let me first deal with the Revenue side. I am neither a financier nor an economist, but even a lay man like myself can certainly ask for an explanation as to why under head "17—Administration of Justice" the estimated receipts for court-fees realised in cash have been put at Rs. 90,000, although the actual receipts for the year 1923-24 amounted to Rs. 1,10,086 and the actuals for 1924-25 went up to Rs. 1,34,244. What apprehension led the Hon'ble Member to show a drop of several thousand rupees in the estimated receipts. Similarly under head "18—Jails and Convict Settlements" the estimated receipts for Jail Manufactures have been budgeted at Rs. 10,20,000, whereas the actual receipts under that head for 1924-25 and 1923-24 amounted to Rs. 12,52,100 and Rs. 13,14,695, respectively. Such a big drop in the estimates, *i.e.*, over Rs. 2 lakhs and a half, requires clear explanation from the Government. My conviction is that by these and similar other jugglery of figures the balances have been attempted to be shown as being much smaller than what they actually are, so that Members of this House might not have an opportunity of clamouring for more money for schemes which are likely to benefit the people at large.

It is on the expenditure side of the Budget that the Hon'ble Member is full of self-complacence. With some degree of pardonable vanity he says that "the Council will, I think, agree that it is largely a budget for what are often termed the Nation-building Departments. Subjects classified in recent years as Transferred Subjects have received the lion's share of new expenditure". I am very sorry that I cannot agree to or extol this statement of the Hon'ble the Finance Member. He might very well parade that Education, Public Health and Medical Departments have all received generous and substantial provision, but we, the representatives of those people, who cry for more education, more drinking water, better medical and sanitary arrangements, can we be satisfied with such so-called "generous and substantial provisions"? Our grievance has been and is that you are perpetuating a form of administration which is tremendously expensive and to which the children of the soil have no real voice. If you can cheapen this costly administration, if you can sympathetically co-operate with the needs of the dumb millions in the villages, there will be money enough and to spare for

the Nation-building, Nation-preserving and Nation-feeding departments. We can thank you for small mercies, but certainly you cannot expect us to be satisfied with these small allotments for matters of such vital importance.

Let me take some of the important heads on the expenditure side. It has been proposed to spend Rs. 2½ lakhs more for the Medical departments than in the current year. The total grant budgeted for the ensuing year is Rs. 60,68,000 and the revised estimate for current year was Rs. 58,19,000. Well, this small increased grant is what may be termed a drop in the bucket. Considering the immensity of the wants of this province for medical relief amongst the Malaria and Kala-azar-ridden districts of Bengal, this increased grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs is absolutely inadequate and this inadequacy will be more painfully apparent when the ways and means of distributing the same are taken into account. Then take the head of "Education". The total amount allotted is Rs. 1,22,76,000, whereas the revised estimate for last year was Rs. 1,22,46,000. That means an increase of a paltry few thousand rupees. Is this the vaunted reserve of substantial provisions to remove the curse of illiteracy from the land?

Now compare these figures with the Budget estimates under the head "Police". The revised estimate of last year amounted to Rs. 1,67,03,000 and the present Budget provides for Rs. 1,71,12,000, which means an increase of over Rs. 4 lakhs of expenditure for the Police Department. Sir, this has been the most pampered and well-fed department of the Government and an addition of another sum of Rs. 4 lakhs will certainly be regarded as a fresh reward for the excessive zeal with which the members of that department have been serving their masters.

I have neither the time nor the ability to enter into a closer examination of the Budget figures, but all I can say is that I am disappointed at the allotments for water-supply in municipalities and rural areas and for the inadequate provision for sewerage, Kala-azar, Malaria and Education.

Sir, in this general discussion I have made my comments on some of the important items of the Budget, but I would be failing in my duties towards my own constituency if I do not enter a strong protest against the shabby treatment that Howrah is receiving at the hands of the Government. With a view to finance the water-works scheme of Howrah, the Government had promised to advance a loan of Rs. 8,20,000 on a 30 years basis so far back as the year 1914. As the Great European War broke out immediately after, this loan was held up but the work which had already been taken up had to be pushed through by diverting to it another loan which Government had previously advanced. Out of the above promised loan we have got only Rs. 3,50,000 during all these 12 years. The Chairman of the Howrah Municipality by his letter No. 2713 G., dated 29th October, 1925, addressed to the District

Magistrate of Howrah and an advance copy of which was simultaneously sent to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Local Self-Government Department, emphasised the urgency for the balance of the promised loan, *viz.*, Rs. 4,70,000, for the construction of overhead reservoirs, alteration and extension of town distribution pipes and other works in connection with the said water-works scheme. We hoped that this amount or a substantial portion of it would be included in the Loans Budget, but in the detailed estimate of loans to be advanced to municipalities as specified on page 84 of the Red Book of the Government of Bengal, the claim of Howrah has been entirely overlooked. Sir, if this be an accidental omission, which I hope it is, I will certainly ask the Hon'ble Member to include the amount in the Budget and advance the money to the Municipal Commissioners of Howrah at an early date to enable them to complete the scheme and to refund the loan taken from another fund.

I have got another serious grievance against the Government so far as Howrah is concerned. As the roads and drains of Howrah are in need of immediate improvement and reconstruction to enable them to cope with modern requirements of trade and population, it was decided by the Government of Bengal in the year 1922 to create a separate Trust for the improvement of Howrah. But neither a Bill for the said Trust has been prepared nor will the Government give an assurance as to when the matter will be taken up in right earnest. In reply to a question of mine on the subject on the 18th February, 1924, the Government gave a most evasive answer. In the meantime the condition of things is going from bad to worse and the finances of Howrah are absolutely insufficient to deal with such a big project.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to say that this is the third and probably the last Budget discussion I shall be privileged to take part in for no one can anticipate what the wheel of the next General Election will bring forth. Sir, I am one of those persons who came to the Council under the inspiration and guidance of that illustrious leader and self-sacrificing patriot Deshbandhu C. R. Das. We came here with the avowed object of storming the citadel of the bureaucracy which is well guarded by its defenders and loyal supporters, and it is for the country to judge how far we have succeeded in our attempts. But the tragic call of highsouled starving patriots from behind the prison bars of Mandalay coming floating across the sea is a sure indication that the grim struggle for liberty has yet to be carried on with as much determination as ever. Our great leader has been taken away from us in the midst of the fight and his magic and loving personality is no longer there to guide us in our battle for freedom. But with all these drawbacks we have in our humble way been keeping aloft the banner of truth, righteousness and patriotism that our revered leader

of immortal memory has left behind as his most precious legacies. May God lead us on to *Swaraj* which is the cherished goal of our highest ambition.

Dr. H. W. B. MORENO : At the outset of my remarks I would like to make a suggestion to the absent Hon'ble Member in charge of Finance that he might be good enough when making his speech on the Budget, to supply Members of the Council with a spare copy of his Budget speech. The acoustic properties of this House are very faulty; and if the Hon'ble Member in charge were to give us a copy of his speech when delivering it we would be better able to follow his labyrinthine arguments and the maze of figures he deals with. I make the suggestion for what it is worth, and hope the Hon'ble Member will be able to see his way to comply with this request.

As a representative of the Anglo-Indian community may I express to Government my sincere sense of gratitude for again giving to Anglo-Indian education the sum of Rs. 78,000 for the re-building and remodelling of the school buildings of Queen's Hill Girls' School, Darjeeling. The community and other sympathisers have already contributed towards this school building a sum of Rs. 2,74,000, and it is gratifying to note that Government has supplemented this with a grant of Rs. 78,000.

In the last Budget speech I gratefully remember the Hon'ble Member in charge giving a grant to a sister institution, the Roman Catholic School in Entally—..... .....

(A VOICE : Is there a quorum, Sir?)

(A count being taken, a quorum being present the speaker resumed.)

I was observing, Sir, that last year a grant was given to the Entally Orphanage; it is very encouraging, then, to see that a similar grant is being given to a sister institution in Darjeeling—Queen's Hill School—for the purpose of erecting a building. It is a school which provides facilities for the education of Anglo-Indian girls and for smaller boys. I should like here to plead with Government about the necessity of an Anglo-Indian hostel in Calcutta. I realise that the hostel at Dacca has not been a very great success there; the reasons are very obvious. In Dacca Anglo-Indians do not congregate in very large numbers, but, here in Calcutta their number is very great, people coming from outside to live in Calcutta. Moreover, there are facilities in Calcutta in the way of colleges and institutions, for arts, science and for technical training, that it would be a very helpful thing if Government were to establish an Anglo-Indian hostel here. We have hostels for Muhomadans, hostels for even backward classes, why should we not have a hostel for Anglo-Indians?

Dealing with the question of education as a whole, I take it that the Calcutta University authorities are satisfied with the grant now given to them, although some of them may not yet be satisfied; yet generally speaking I think Government have met the University authorities in a very generous manner. I should like, however, to emphasise the need of giving more money to primary education which is a far greater need in this province. We are told that Government have great schemes in hand, that Government are providing for primary education for the masses: yet we find in the budget that whereas the past estimate was Rs. 28,77,000, in the revised estimate only Rs. 27,87,000 has been provided, which means a decrease of Rs. 90,000, or almost a lakh. In primary education in Bengal lies the future prosperity of the province and it is our duty as representatives of the people to bang at the door of Government and insist on this much needed reform being introduced. We talk of higher education, we talk of vocational training, we also talk of other useful projects that are required for the advancement of the people of Bengal, but all these are based upon the firm foundation of imparting primary education amongst the masses. It is the stepping stone, over which is the future happiness of the people. If primary education were universal, the masses would soon be able to study all questions for themselves and judge things for themselves; they would thus be in a position not to be so easily swayed by the erroneous and often inflammable arguments of so-called intelligent people.

With regard to the increase of revenue derived from Registration fees, I note that before there was an increase in these fees, the sanctioned estimate was Rs. 25,50,000. With the increase in fees, the revised estimate is Rs. 37,50,000: this means an increase of Rs. 12½ lakhs. It is not an inconsiderable figure. In view of the fact that Government has got this increase in Registration fees, I trust they will see their way to remove that iniquitous tax on amusements. I do not for a single moment plead for the abolition of the tax on betting; I see from the estimates that only Rs. 6 lakhs are gained by this amusements tax whereas from the tax on betting Government get Rs. 14 lakhs—to be more precise Rs. 13,81,000. Sir, with regard to the collection of the amusements tax, Government must confess that it is an extremely difficult tax to gather, with the betting tax it is different. I speak as a representative of the Anglo-Indian community and I am conscious of my responsibility when I say, that it is very hard on these poor people to levy a tax which raises the prices of admission by sometimes a rupee or 8 annas or for the matter of that 4 annas. I hold that the Anglo-Indian community as well as the other sister communities—I mean the *bhadrolog* classes of Bengal—are entitled to have some relaxation in the form of recreation. They are an over-worked and overburdened people and it would be very hard on them if this tax be retained. Now that Government have got this increased income from Registration fees,

I trust they will be able to see their way to relax their Shylock-like hold on the amusements tax which affects the pockets of the poorer classes in Bengal.

Then, Sir, in dealing with questions concerning the Medical Department now under the Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia, I notice that while there is a good grant given for the improvement of the Eye Hospital, no definite attempt has been made to open out a Dental Hospital in Calcutta. The need for a School of Dentistry is becoming more and more pressing as time goes on, and Government should realise their responsibility in that direction. I think, therefore, that a real attempt should be made to introduce a course of dentistry in the local Medical Colleges, or for the matter of that to have a Government College for Dentistry. It is a most important matter which I leave to the consideration of the Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia. I hope, Sir, the Maharaja Bahadur will not retort by saying that I am urging this as an election "stunt" as, indeed, he did retort, when other's spoke of the need of irrigation in various centres of Bengal. I hope he will not insist on looking down from his Olympian heights on us frail mortals below; and will not say that these things are urged with a sinister motive, now that he has secured a place "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest". I hope he will not take amiss my remarks but will accept them in the spirit in which they are given.

With regard to the cattle-breeding in which I and other animal-lovers in this Council are very much interested, I have to express my sense of serious disappointment as to what is being done in regard to the improvement of cattle here in Bengal. The Nawab Bahadur is not here; I take it that having recently assumed office he is not responsible for the present position with regard to this question. I feel that now that the Nawab Bahadur is in office he will bring sound common sense and rare judgment to bear on all questions submitted to him. It is well known that improvement in the breed of cattle not only improves the strain of plough cattle but also improves the strain of milch cattle, at the same time, thus leading to the cheapening of the price of milk and milk products. We are told that Government have thought fit now to appoint a cattle expert. It seems that when we in this Council ask for bread, we are given a stone. What we want is not a multiplication of these experts, but to see that something tangible is done in a practical form for the cattle themselves.

Then, Sir, with regard to the Police budget, I am in sympathy with those who say that there is a needless increase in the Police grant. The Police, Sir, is the pampered child of the Government of Bengal as the Army is the pampered child of the Government of India, and we are always told that somehow or other they have to be specially looked after. I, for one, however, welcome the change that has been introduced in the way of giving enhanced remuneration to sub-inspectors of

police. They, I think, are very hard-worked people and are meritorious of some reward. But while I speak in favour of the sub-inspectors, I should like to place on record my sense of disappointment in regard to the salaries and prospects of the poor sergeants who are mostly Anglo-Indians and who are perhaps the most maligned set of officers.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE : What is their salary.

Dr. H. W. B. MORENO: About Rs. 150 rising to 200. Some of them are married and the only advantage they get then is married quarters. Something should be done for these poor people who are doing their best to stand by and act up to the highest ideals of the service.

We have also been told by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department that mosquito nets must be provided for constables in malarious thanas. This reminds me of a character in Charles Dickens' novel who in all his conversations had to bring up the talk about King Charles' head.

I hope the Hon'ble Member in charge will not be so insistent in future, in bringing up, before this council this old question of mosquito nets for Police constables, again and again.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You have reached your time limit.

Dr. H. W. B. MORENO : One word more, in conclusion. The Hon'ble Finance Member hints at increased taxation in the Province. As a member of the Anglo-Indian community, with the spread of unemployment in my community and in the other communities of the province, let me here say boldly that we shall resent very keenly any scheme for fresh taxation. What is wanted is retrenchment and more retrenchment in this top-heavy administration.

Dr. MOHINI MOHAN DAS spoke in Bengali.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: It is not my intention to inflict a speech upon the House. I consider the Budget as a whole a good Budget indeed. I only rise for a little information. Some of the members of the House will remember that in 1922 this Council passed a resolution of mine to provide Rs. 50,000 for the Bengal Leper Settlement at Midnapore with an unanimous vote. So far I have heard nothing about this and I now desire some information on this from the Hon ble Member in charge.

Secondly, the House will probably be aware that in 1925 my resolution for the withdrawal of the Entertainments Tax so far as the cinemas and theatres were concerned was passed in this House by a very large majority. I fail to see why this matter has not been dealt

with or taken notice of in the present Budget. I am now awaiting information on these points, and if the information is not forthcoming, I shall again take the opportunity of attacking the Budget. In the meantime I hope the Hon'ble Mr. Donald will be able to supply me with the information I have asked.

Babu JOGINDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI: Sir, as I rise to speak this afternoon on the occasion of the Budget discussion the first thought that occurs to me is that two of our worthy comrades are absent to-day under compulsion undergoing most terrible sufferings within the prison bars of Mandalay jail along with 8 other valiant sons of Bengal who have been cruelly snatched away from their field of activities under the plea of law and order. Sir, do we fully realise the gravity of the situation that has arisen in consequence of the alarming news that these gentlemen have been without any food or drink for the last 11 days for the purpose of drawing prominent attention of their own countrymen and of the Government to their grievances which have not been remedied by the authorities responsible for their incarceration. We are asked to take part in the discussion of the Budget but do we fully realise how impotent and powerless we are that we cannot even move our little fingers for protecting our own brothers—the sons of the same motherland from insults and indignities offered to them while they are confined within the four corners of the jail. Sir, I shudder to think what the consequences may be, but may we hope that the moans and sighs of these young men who have been obliged to have recourse to the extreme step of abstention from food will at least reach the ears of our rulers and move their hearts to take such action as may at any rate prevent the happening of a sad catastrophy.

Coming now to the Budget I regret, Sir, I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member for the Budget he has presented to us for 1926-27. He feels happy that the nightmare of the provincial contribution does not any longer disturb him, and I have no doubt that the Council will share with him the happy thought that freed from the anxiety of the provincial contribution, the preparation of the Budget for the coming year has been a matter of less difficulty to him than in the past years. But the Hon'ble Member says that our resources are still limited and our financial position can never be fully assured until a settlement more in accord with the needs of the Province and giving freedom for expansion is vouchsafed to us. If our resources, however, are limited, as the Hon'ble Member admits, does the Budget give us any indication that he has tried to cut down expenditure on all heads and to make provisions keeping in view the fundamental principle that no expenditure ought to be made which does not directly or indirectly benefit the poor tax-payer, who after all is responsible for the supply of all the resources available to the Government. As one representing

the poor tax-payers living in their humble cottages in remote corners of the country I must judge the Budget from this point of view alone and no other. Has any serious attempt been made to grapple with any of the vital problems which are constantly pressed upon the attention of the Government by the members of this Council and by the public at large through the public press and the platform. The Hon'ble Member claims that he has attempted to make some advance in adding to existing activities and in devising schemes for the general improvement and amelioration of Bengal and its people. The Hon'ble Member is apologetic in his tone and his performance is disappointing to the extreme. But, Sir, we have been habituated to meet with disappointments in all our demands and aspirations and I must not be accused of forgetting that the Budget is bound to be disappointing so long as those who meet the supplies have no voice in the allocation of those supplies to different purposes, who can deny that even with the resources at our command the picture which the present Budget represents might have been painted in an entirely different hue if the allotment of expenditure had been left in the hands of the people. Sir, the budget really discloses in an unmistakeable manner the policy of the Government towards the people. The use of honied words like amelioration and improvement cannot satisfy the needs of the suffering millions of humanity in Bengal.

Coming now to an examination of the Budget before us, I must tell you frankly, Sir, that having got the Budget in hand the first thing I attempted to find out was as to whether there was an indication in it of a sincere desire on the part of the Government to save a dying race which is progressing rapidly and unmistakeably towards destruction. Sir, to every honest lover of his own country, surely the first and the foremost thought must be as to how his country can grow and develop and take its own place amongst those countries which occupy the foremost positions on the globe. To my mind, however, consideration of growth and development so far as Bengal is concerned are practically out of question in our present circumstances. While other nations in other countries are devising means for further growth and development, we in Bengal are faced with the serious problem as to how are we to live. The question of self-preservation is the principal question which awaits our solution. Let me explain the position more clearly. The Bengal Health Report for the year 1924 tells us that there are signs of steady increase in mortality in Bengal. The birth-rate in 1923 was 29·9 per mille while in 1924 it was 29·5. The death-rate in 1923 was 25·5 and in 1924 25·9. The birth-rate therefore is decreasing while the death-rate is increasing. If this double process goes on for some time Bengal will be soon converted into a "Maha-Swasan". We have not got the figures for 1925 yet, but there is no reason to think that the situation has by any means improved. The Report for 1924 gives

figures showing that there is considerable increase in infant mortality and death from fever, kala-azar, cholera and small-pox is also on the increase. Death from fever in 1923 was 9 lakhs and 10 thousand while in 1924 it rose to 9 lakhs and 13 thousand. Kala-azar took away 4 thousand and six hundred souls in 1923 and in 1924 the figure rose to about 10 thousand, *i.e.*, nearly double. Death from cholera in 1923 amounted to 41 thousand 5 hundred while it rose to 48 thousand 5 hundred in 1924. Death from small-pox in 1923 was 4 thousand 3 hundred, in 1924 it was 5 thousand and 6 hundred. Sir, these figures are supplied to the people by that department of the Government which is supposed to be responsible for the public health of Bengal. For the Public Health Establishment in 1924-25 an amount of Rs. 7 lakhs and 50 thousand had to be spent out of the small resources available to the Hon'ble the Member for Finance. In 1925-26 the amount rose to Rs. 7 lakhs and 83 thousand while the Hon'ble Member has budgeted for Rs. 8 lakhs and 10 thousand for 1926-27. Therefore the more we are drifting towards annihilation the more is the cost of the Public Health establishment increasing. Sir, it is difficult to understand the mentality of those who profess always to be anxious to promote the well-being of the dumb millions of this country for whom they have accepted the position of trustees, but who at the same time consider that their responsibility is sufficiently discharged by appointing some highly paid officers and making luxurious provisions for their allowances, honoraria, tour expenses and so forth. A highly paid Director of Bengal's public health or a highly paid public health Chief Engineer cannot save Bengal from the jaws of death. These gentlemen are supposed to investigate and look into the causes which are undermining the public health of Bengal and to suggest remedies. It is for the Government to act up to these suggestions. Is the Government doing it? Well, Sir, I am not supposed to be an expert either in public health or in hygiene, but I think it needs no expert to see that poverty and sickness are two twin sisters and that they always go together. When a man is poor he is famished and without the necessary food and clothing his physical system easily succumbs to the attack of diseases of all kinds. The agricultural condition of the country is declining for which the death of the rivers and waterways is directly responsible. The condition of the cattle in Bengal is rapidly declining and milk has already become a rare commodity in those villages which even in recent years could boast of a sufficient quantity of good milk. Scarcity of milk means scarcity of the baby's food. Well, Sir, the Hon'ble Member has been pleased to tell us that a breeding expert will be appointed, and he has made provision for that. Sir, when I am asked to believe that the appointment of an officer or officers with a big salary is a sure panacea for all ills from which we are suffering I feel bound to say that that is a theory which no one outside the bureaucratic circle will accept it. What then is the immediate prospect of an average Bengali in his race

of life? Why with the decline of agriculture and the decline of cattle, with the hands of death inexorably realising its heavy toll, with our young men coming out of the gates of the University with shattered health and then thrown into the turmoil of life without in numerous cases anything to fall back upon, I say, Sir, that the question of all questions to us at the present moment is not how to grow but how to live. Sir, I will not endeavour to make any observation regarding the policy of the various departments within the short space of time allowed for a Budget speech, but I am only showing that the policy indicated in the Budget as a whole is the same time-worn policy of a small increment here and another there just because the people are clamorous. The Government knows well enough why the people are clamorous. It is hunger which makes them clamorous. The rebellion of the belly it is said is the greatest rebellion. The Hon'ble the Finance Member has been pleased to observe in his speech that he expects the Council to agree that the Budget is largely a Budget for what are often termed the nation-building departments and that the transferred subjects have received the lion's share of the new expenditure. Education, Public Health and Medical departments have all received generous and substantial provision for their present needs. Sir, I wish very much I could accept this assurance of the Hon'ble Member, I am sorry to find, however, that a close examination of the Budget dispels all hopes that one might build upon the Hon'ble Member's speech. Without entering into details one can at once see that when the test as to how much of the so-called increased provision will reach the tax-payer, is applied, the delusion is dispelled. As an example I might cite the case of education. The Hon'ble Member says that he has provided Rs. 7 lakhs more than the revised estimate for 1925-26 on education. When analysed we find that so far as rural Bengal is concerned there is only a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs provided for small increments to the *pathsala gurus;* not that the Government proposes to spend any *cowrie* for further progress and extension of primary education. The same condition of things will be apparent when we closely analyse the major heads—Public Health and Medical.

Sir, the machinery of our Government has become too inelastic, and too rigid to be able to move with the needs of the hour. Impervious to public demand, the Government goes on along its own narrow groove. Bengal is in need of an administrator who can rise above prejudices and preconceptions, who may have the courage of going to the root of all our sufferings and who can boldly take such means as may successfully combat the alarming increase of sickness and poverty. Bengal will go on raising her voice against the policy of providing for the luxuries of our administrators first and then distributing miserable doles for the necessities of the people. The Hon'ble the Finance Member complains of the resources being limited when the question is

one affecting the lives of the people. He makes no such complaint when he increases the provisions for the personal comfort of the administrators—from His Excellency downwards. Sir, Bengal wants to live and Bengal will do her utmost to get this policy changed and it is bound to be changed sooner or later, perhaps sooner than later.

Maulvi WAHED HOSSAIN: I feel happy to participate in the annual ceremony of the presentation of the Budget and to take part in its discussion. The Hon'ble the Finance Member has not with Scotch caution described it as a prosperous Budget, nor does he call it a deficit one. So the opportunity of usual formality of congratulating the Hon'ble Member upon the presentation of a prosperous Budget or expressing regret at its deficit character is lost. This time-honoured formality is a precious heritage of this House which very few members will be willing to give up. However, it must be admitted that the Budget presented to the House, has been prepared with great caution and deligence and I have no hesitation in calling it a cautious budget for which the Hon'ble the Finance Member can justly claim credit. We should not forget the well-known maxim " Give into Cæsar Cæsar's due ".

In the previous years the Budgets were harshly criticised on the ground that they revealed no underlying policy from which the generous purposes of the Government could be ascertained. The Hon'ble Mr. Donald admitted in reply to these criticisms in 1923-24 that there was not much policy behind the Budget. Since then some attempts have been made to avoid such criticisms by indicating a line of policy which the Government intend to follow. But the line was so thin and faint that it hardly attracted the attention of the Council. This year the line has been made somewhat thick and vivid. The Hon'ble the Finance Member in summarising his Budget speech says:—

" The Council will, I think, agree that it is largely a Budget for what are often termed the Nation-building Departments, subjects classified in recent years as transferred subjects have the lion's share of new expenditure, Education, Public Health and Medical Departments have all received generous and substantial provision for their present need and the execution of various schemes that are meditated should prove of immense value to the well being of the people of Bengal."

This is the bright side of the picture. But its brightness is dimmed by a foreboding of the Hon'ble Member when he tells the Council that " for the present I will leave out the dark side of the picture and confine myself to bringing up to date our exact financial position and elucidating our programme for the coming year ". The two statements quoted above are at conflict, which naturally gives rise to misgiving and anxiety. Our solicitude for our real financial position leads me to the query—What is the dark side to which the Hon'ble Member has hinted?

This may be due to nervousness on my part, but the financial position of the province is anything but stable and the cautious Budget itself is nervous. It would have been a great relief to the Council if the Hon'ble the Finance Member has not kept the House in suspense. However, there is a programme of new expenditure, he maintains, in the Budget for the coming year and a policy behind the Budget. But the elucidation of the policy seems to be ominous, for the Hon'ble Member points out:—

"If I exclude the increase in 'Registration' receipts, which is the result of recent enhanced rates and the increased revenue from which has already almost entirely been hypothecated by the schemes to which the Council gave its assent last rains season, 'Stamps' is the only head amongst our revenues from which any very material increase has been derived. Excise receipts are at a standstill, and it is a question, as opinions go to-day, whether we can place great reliance on increasing revenues from this source. Our stand-by is thus practically limited to 'Stamps', unless we are to explore new sources and impose extra taxation. And we cannot expect that we shall always have such a marked growth of receipts from 'Stamps' as we have had in the present year. Failing new taxation there—and I do not propose to suggest any measure of this kind—except perhaps on schemes of very considerable magnitude which could not be financed on our existing revenues or on any alteration of our settlement even to our best hopes—our possibilities of expansion in the future must necessarily be circumscribed".

These ominous utterances by the Hon'ble the Finance Member give rise to hopes and misgivings, expectation and anxiety in which the mind is tossed in an uncertain situation. The position is this: For schemes of considerable magnitude which cannot be financed from the existing sources of income, in the opinion of the Finance Member, the country should be ready for new taxation. The people expected that with the retaxation or remission of the Meston Award, they would get some relief from the burden of some of the taxes newly imposed upon them. But now it appears that they have lived in vain expectations.

The people of the country have looked forward with found hopes to the savings that might be effected in accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. I understand that savings have been made by retrenchment and that further retrenchment is hardly possible. But the retrenchment has not reduced the cost of administration nor brought any relief to the people. The reason is obvious. What is saved by the pruning operation of retrenchment is swallowed up by increasing the cost of a top-heavy administration. The policy behind the practice seems to be cynically inconsistent—retrenchment at the bottom and expansion on the top. The Retrenchment Committee and the Lee Commission have played their parts well in the rôles of the miserly father and the squandering daughter in the Merchant of Venice.

Their recommendations have smoothly been counter-balanced though not without hardship to those who unfortunately happened to be in the lower ladder of the administration. Happy are the gods in the Olympian heights, mortals weep below in the struggle for existence." I regret, Sir, that I cannot understand the secret of this policy. Perhaps it requires Ithurial's spear to unmask the real nature of the policy.

Compulsory Primary Education.—I do not desire to make a running comment on the Budget in all its respects, but to confine myself to some suggestions which I think, may be of some use for a constructive programme. I first take up the question of extension of Primary Education in Bengal. From the observations of the Hon'ble the Finance Member in his Budget Speech I am encouraged to hold that Primary Education may safely be made compulsory in selected areas and that the cost of compulsory Primary Education in such areas need not frighten us. At the outset I may point out that Mr. Biss' Education scheme is too ambitious and unworkable in its financial aspect. This is the chief reason why its progress has been painfully slow. I am afraid that it will prove a failure owing to the costly nature of the scheme. In rural areas people want a less ambitious and less costly scheme.

Leaving aside then this ambitious scheme. and relying on other schemes or systems in vogue and according to which the Education Department conducts Primary Education I shall try to show how it can be made compulsory in selected areas without incurring much extra expenditure:—

(*1*) From the sixth Quinquinnial Review of 1921-22 and the annual Reports on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1923-24 and 1924-25, it appears that the people of Bengal are generous in meeting more than half the cost of Primary Education without any recourse to taxation, and less than half is met by Government. The Report for 1923-24 points out (on page 12) that "of the total cost of maintaining primary schools for Indian boys, 49·16 per cent. and 50·84 per cent. are contributed by public funds and private sources respectively". "In the preceding year 1922-23, the contributions from public and private funds represented 50·79 and 49·21 per cent., respectively, of the total expenditure on primary schools for boys".

The six Quinquennial Review on page 40 says:—

> One basic fact, often forgotten, is this—that the people of Bengal who send their children to primary schools are willing to pay and do pay for about half of what they receive. In no country with an extensive primary educational system is the proportion of fees to the total expenditure so high as it is in Bengal; in no other province of India, even, is the voluntary contribution so great as in Bengal.

Yet the people of Bengal pay willingly and voluntarily without any legislation. The out-spoken observation of Mr. Biss leaves no doubt in the public mind. He says that "the people of Bengal are nevertheless

paying directly and voluntarily more than those in other provinces, for the fee-rate in Bengal is the highest, averaging Rs. 1-11 per annum; no other provinces except Bihar and Orissa coming up even nearly to one-half of that ".

(2) Now it is very clear that Government is practically paying half the cost of Primary Education. Further, the Hon'ble the Finance Member in his Budget Speech declares in reference to Biss' Primary Education schemes that " such schemes are made on the half and half basis and Government can only spend as much as the local bodies—Municipalities and Unions—are themselves prepared to spend ". Biss' scheme is not much popular owing to its costly nature. But the fact remains uncontroverted that Primary Education on any scheme is proceeding on the half and half basis.

(3) At present Primary Education is not free and if it is made compulsory it need not be made free. The Bengal Primary Education Act, IV of 1919, also provides that such education need not ordinarily be made free, exception being made in cases of inability to pay.

(4) My proposal is to make Primary Education compulsory in selected areas as a test case in order to ascertain what will be the amount of half the cost which the Government will have to bear.

I do not think that if in selected areas Primary Education be made compulsory the half cost will be too heavy for Government for I find that the Government of other provinces where it has been made compulsory, do not complain on that score. Some Municipalities, *viz.*, Bandra, Surat, Bakore, Byadgi and Setara in the Presidency of Bombay, a number of Wards in the city of Bombay, the Municipality of Ranchi in Bihar and Orissa and two Municipalities, *viz.*, Multan and Lahore, in the Punjab have introduced compulsory Primary Education. If the Government of those provinces can meet the expenses of compulsory Primary Education, there is no reason why the Bengal Government will fight shy at the idea of cost. I may be met with a rebuff that the Bengal Municipalities have not evinced any desire to avail themselves of the provisions of the Bengal Primary Education Act of 1919 although 7 long years have rolled away. It is true. The passive attitude of the Municipalities of Bengal is an index to their rigid habit with which they revolve in the old grooves of fossilised ideas and fight shy of taking any initiative in the matter. But what the Government is doing all this time? Let the Sixth Quinquennial Review of 1921 speak on the subject:—

Primary Education during the quenquennium has thus marked time; for the increase in the number of institutions and pupils is not even proportionate to the increase of population. The main features have been tentative and sporadic efforts to improve the kind of education given by modifications of curriculum and two more or less exhaustive surveys of the whole field.

Thus while our Municipalities are showing indifference and passivity of mind, the Government are marking time by making tentative and sporadic efforts. The result has been disastrous. Mr. Evan E. Biss points out in his report of 1921 (page 58) that "Bengal is far behind Madras, and an immense distance behind Bombay in the direct part taken by Government and local bodies in providing schools for the people. The percentage of public institutions are—Bengal 6·9, Madras 26·9 and Bombay 80·7 per cent." Such is the lamentable result of the educational policy hitherto pursued by the Government of Bengal. The policy stands self-condemned. I therefore submit that certain amount of compulsion is necessary in the forward march. Compulsion and persuasion are said to be interchangeable terms. Like Siamese twins they are inseparable. Persuasion has failed; it has ended in dilatoriness and sporadic efforts. Compulsion is the next step in the march of progress. I therefore strongly appeal to the Government to take a bold step for giving effect to the provisions of the Bengal Primary Education Act and compel the Municipalities to act under section 3 of the Act. If the matter be left entirely to the discretion and whims of the Municipalites, the act will always remain a dead letter. The imposition of education cess will, I think, be necessary if Primary Education be made free or made compulsory throughout the province. But my suggestion is to make it compulsory and not free in some selected areas only so that half the cost which Government proposes to bear, may be within the capacity of our exchequer.

Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: Mr. President, this is an occasion when members are privileged to speak on all conceivable subjects and to roam at large from the Himalayas to the Cape Comorin. Happily I have no desire to do that.

I merely wish to congratulate my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Donald and his able secretary who have been able to present us with a prosperity Budget, if I may so use an old expression which has found favour in the past with many of my colleagues. Some of the previous speakers have spoken about the Meston Award. The Meston Award which saddled us with a heavy contribution and which used to hang over our devoted heads like the sword of Democles will no longer be operative. Happily that is all over now. I well remember that whenever I or my late fellow Minister had any occasion to beg of the Finance Member for a dole for any urgent scheme in the nation-building departments, the Finance Member always found it handy to scare us away with this bogey of the provincial contribution. It is therefore a relief to feel, that this bogey will no longer be there to disturb future Ministers or to help my friend the Finance Member in scaring them away then and there without being obliged to have recourse to more plausible arguments.

I find Rs. 11½ lakhs have been put down for new recurring expenditure. Almost half of this is to go to Education. My friend has been at

great pains to explain the reason why Education has now received more of the loaves and fishes than other departments and he says that this is not because, that that department is now in the immediate charge of the Finance Member. But, Sir, who has accused him of this partial treatment? Why does he come out with an unasked for explanation? This reminds me of the old, old story of the thief in the "Thakurghar", so oft quoted in the *Patrika* and by the writer of the Political Notes in the *Statesman*,—I see he is not here now—*viz.*, the well-known response of "I have not stolen the plantain", to the question, "Who is there in the Thakurghar". He has been at considerable pains to explain that it is not the Finance Department or the Finance Member that is responsible for the distribution of monies available for new expenditure, but the Government as a whole. True. But, how is it that the Department of Public Health has not come in for such favourable treatment? How is it that more money has not been set apart for rural water-supply? For want of pure drinking-water thousands, nay, millions, of our rural population are yearly falling prey to fell diseases and are dying like flies. To my mind the supply of pure drinking-water for our rural population is much more important than supplying them with facilities for education. The first and foremost problem is not how to get them educated, but how to help them to live.

During my brief period of office, it was my privilege to fight for sufficient money in order to dot the whole province with a sufficient number of tube-wells, as far as it was compatible with our means, in order to supply our masses with pure drinking-water. I came into office after the main Budget was framed and I could only try and get what I could at the time of the Suplementary Budget. Although I knocked, however loudly, at the door of the treasure-room, it was not opened sufficiently wide to enable me to get as much as I wanted. On this occasion when financial prospects are bright, I should have much liked to have seen far greater amounts allotted than what they have been for rural water-supply, for free distribution of quinine, for the campaign against Malaria, Kala-azar and such kindred objects. Let us hope it may still be possible to do so. For our first object is surely to prevent this annual appalling mortality due to Malaria, Kala-azar and other epidemic diseases helped on by the want of pure drinking-water.

Mens sana in corpore sano. Our first duty is to live a healthy life and then to look to the improvement of our mental faculties.

Babu TARAKNATH MUKHERJEA: Mr. President—Sir, a careful perusal of the Budget and a close examination of its figures in detail has not been a very comfortable task with me. Moreover, it is not a very pleasant task as the Budget under discussion do not bring in one's mind much of comfort or hopefulness and I think that even to those

whose ambition it was to work out the Diarchy successfully with continued progress, it is gradually drawing despair and hopelessness.

In fact in it I do not find any indication of any definite and progressive policy. The Hon'ble the Finance Member in his speech has spared no pains to allure us with high hopes, but let me tell you, Sir, that he has failed and most hopelessly failed in his attempt to outwit us.

But, Sir, I must congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. Donald for his brilliant Budget speech which I consider to be a masterpiece of illusion and full of financial jugglery, linguistic skill and also for its literary style.

The Hon'ble Finance Member in the concluding portion of his Budget speech has said that it is largely a budget for what is often termed the nation-building departments and he has further added that subjects classified in recent years as transferred subjects have received the lion's share. He has also said that Education, Public Health and Medical Departments have all received generous and substantial provision.

But, Sir, on a closer analysis of the Budget, these substantial and generous provisions seem to be more apparent than real.

The total expenditure under the head "Police" comes to Rs. 1,87,09,000, while on the other hand the total budgeted expenditure under the head "Education" amounts to Rs. 1,30,95,000, "Medical" Rs. 60,68,000, and "Public Health" amounts to Rs. 37,83,000.

The total estimated cost for His Excellency the Governor, including his pay, staff and household expenses, etc., amounts to over 10 lakhs of rupees.

Then again under the head "Commissioners", a sum of about Rs. 4½ lakhs have been budgeted for.

Sir, even the Retrenchment Committee did not find these Commissioners of Divisions indispensable and although they are considered by many as a sort of expensive and dignified Post Office or more clearly speaking a conduit pipe establishing communication between the Provincial Government and the District Administration, yet we have got to pay such a large amount as Rs. 4½ lakhs for them. While on the other hand a substantial amount of Rs. 80,000 has been provided for the anti-malarial works and a generous amount of Rs. 2,10,500 has been budgeted for a huge task like the anti-kala-azar campaign in the Province.

From this we can well judge what substantial and generous provisions have been made for these nation-building departments and what a lion's share they have got. The Hon'ble Mr. Donald in his Budget speech has boldly declared that he does not think that the Council can complain that with the funds at his disposal he has been neglectful of or has paid

insufficient attention to the needs of the people. A very pious sentiment indeed, and the above stated budgeted figures under the different heads amply justify it.

Of course, Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Member deserves the deep gratitude and respectful thanks of the people already groaning under a heavy burden of taxation for not proposing any fresh addition to the burden.

In his Budget speech there is, of course, no mention of the increase in expenditure under the recommendations of the Lee Commission, but with a characteristic candour he has pointed out that his anticipations in the matter of Excise revenue has not, however, materialised. But he should not be very sorry for this, because although the people of the country have practised moderation in the department of Excise yet at the same time they have indulged themselves more in the luxury of litigation.

In conclusion Mr. Donald has asked his critics to take a broad view of the various demands in a fair and impartial spirit and with every sympathy for the needs of the people of this Presidency.

Sir, may I ask him with all seriousness that does he sincerely consider Rs. 80,000 fair and sufficient amount for the anti-malarial works or Rs. 2,10,500 for the anti-kala-azar campaign in a province where people are daily dying in thousands for this and such other preventable diseases. Is it his fair, impartial and sympathetic distribution?

Sir, there is a considerable scope for retrenchment in many top-heavy departments and this has been established beyond all shades of doubt by the Retrenchment Committee, consisting not of obstructive Swarajists but of Princes of Co-operators.

Sir, the Retrenchment Committee recommended a saving of Rs. 98,25,000 per year in respect of the Reserved Departments alone. May I enquire what substantial effect has been given to these suggestions of those Princes of Co-operators.

On the contrary in this Budget we find that the expenditure under the head "Police" amounts to Rs. 1,87,09,000, which even exceeds the expenses under the head "General Administration" by about Rs. 70 lakhs.

Of course, I know Sir, as was once said in this House by one Indian Member of the Executive Council that "the Government is not a charitable institution". But, Sir, I may say that it is admitted on all hands that the political situation in the country is no doubt very serious and that constructive statesmanship demands that at this critical moment the Government should show and practically demonstrate more anxiety to placate the sentiments of the people. In order to ameliorate the condition of the people the angle of vision should be changed before a new era is dawned.

Sir, the present discontent in the country, apart from the politica sense which is the legitimate outcome of our contact with the wester institutions, is to a very great extent due to the poverty of the middl classes which has reached such a gigantic proportion as cannot but prov a terrible evil and a real source of danger to the State. I am firmly o opinion that merely the constitutional reforms even if freed of all thei objectionable features, will not by its operation, ever succeed in allaying far less in eradicating, the present discontent in the country.

Sir, ours is an agricultural country and the people who are really th backbone of the country cannot be contented unless some material im provements are done to them. I must frankly admit that the last 5 year of this reformed regime have not in any way been able to ameliorate th condition of the country. Blame as much you like to the lack of funds but there can also be no denying of the lack of energy, lack of sympathy and lack of initiative in those who are the custodians of the public funds With these few words, Sir, I submit before the House my humbl observations.

[At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.]

(After the adjournment.)

Adjournment.

There being no quorum present the Council was adjourned at 6-15 P.M. till 3 P.M., on Tuesday, the 2nd March, 1926, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 2nd March, 1926, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Deputy President (Dr. A. SUHRAWARDY) in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, and 79 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Recommendations to provide School Sub-Inspectors with peons.

*CIV. **Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the recommendation of Mr. E. E. Biss in Chapter VIII, page 51, of his report on Primary Education in the matter of providing School Sub-Inspectors with peons?

(*b*) If so, have the Government taken the matter into their consideration?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, what is their decision in the matter?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (*a*) Government are aware that Mr. Biss made the suggestion.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government took no action on the suggestion.

Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government propose to take any action on the recommendation of Mr. Biss?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: No.

Bill to control secondary education.

***CV. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the Bill for control of secondary education in Bengal as prepared in terms of the recommendations of the Sadler Commission has been framed?

(*b*) If so, when will the said Bill be introduced into the Council, and published for public criticism?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*a*) No.

(*b*) This question does not arise.

Anti-malarial aspect of the Bhairab Scheme.

***CVI. Babu JOGENDRA NATH MITRA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the report of the Director of Public Health in regard to the anti-malarial aspect of the Bhairab Scheme is ready?

(*b*) If not, when is it likely to be ready?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur of Nadia): (*a*) No.

(*b*) In March next.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH MITRA: Is it March this year, or next year?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur of Nadia: March, 1926.

Bhairab Scheme and the Jessore District Board.

***CVII. Babu JOGENDRA NATH MITRA:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state when the District Board of Jessore will receive the Bhairab Scheme for their consideration in order to take action under the Bengal Act VI of 1920 (Agricultural and Sanitary improvement)?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur of Nadia: The project is at present under examination by the Director, Public Health Department, and will probably be placed before the District Board within the next few months.

Progress of Primary Education.

***CVIII. Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what steps have been taken since the 1st April, 1925, for the extension of Primary Education in this Presidency?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to bring forward a proposal for additional taxation for the purpose of providing funds for Primary Education?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table showing the progress made in the "Biss" Schemes since the 1st April, 1925.

(*b*) The matter is not yet before Government.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. CVIII.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS STARTED UNDER MR. BISS' SCHEME IN 1925-26.

	Non-recurring.	Recurring.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Chittagong Municipality.	150	3,275 3,509 3,743
2. Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Burdwan Municipality (G. O. No. 3087-Edn., dated 31st October 1925).	191	600
3. Scheme for the Free Primary Education in the Asansol Municipality (G. O. No. 3342-Edn., dated 14th November 1925).	9,162	4,068
4. Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Gajaghanta Union, Rangpur (G. O. No. 2975-Edn., dated 24th October 1925).	....	....
5. Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Kurumgram Union, Birbhum (G. O. No. 2692-Edn., dated 18th September 1925).	850	753
6. Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Aichganti Union, Khulna (G. O. No. 2687-Edn., dated 18th September 1925).	525	655-8
7. Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Narayanpur Union, 24-Parganas (G. O. No. 2682-Edn., dated 18th September 1925).	....	350
8. Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Kabirajpur Union, Faridpur (G. O. No. 2662-Edn., dated 18th September 1925).	5,675	17,052

		Non-recurring.	Recurring.
		Rs.	Rs.
9.	Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Berhampore Municipality (G. O. No. 2697-Edn., dated 18th September 1925).	....	8,010
10.	Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Comilla Municipality (G. O. No. 2672-Edn., dated 18th September 1925).	500	725
11.	Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Sherpur Municipality, Bogra (G. O. No. 2678-Edn., dated 18th September 1925).	550	608
12.	Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Palong Union, Faridpur (G. O. No. 2720-Edn., dated 21st September 1925).	2,800 1,300	278 (1924-25) 2,028 (1925-26) 2,148 (1926-27) 2,460 (1926-28)
13.	Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Nurpur Union, Pabna (G. O. No. 3143-Edn., dated 4th November 1925).	1,000	772-8
14.	Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Panihati Municipality, 24-Parganas (G. O. No. 2656-Edn., dated 18th September 1925).	5,225	2,003
15.	Scheme for Free Primary Education at Sultanpur, Burdwan (G. O. No. 2667-Edn., dated 18th September 1925).	....	720
16.	Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Jalpaiguri Municipality (G. O. No. 1-Edn., dated 6th January 1926).	845	210
17.	Scheme for Free Primary Education in the Narendra Union, Midnapore (G. O. No. 356-Edn., dated 4th February 1926).	....	820

Nowi-Sunthi Scheme.

***CIX. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) With reference to the answer given on the 11th December, 1925, to my supplementary question to starred question No. XCI, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state -

(*i*) why the District Board of the 24-Parganas, if they agreed before to borrow the amount required in excess of the Government grant for the Nowi-Sunthi project, now dislike accepting the financial risk and are not prepared to proceed with the scheme; and

(*ii*) what grounds, if any, are advanced by them in support of their present attitude?

(*b*) Whether any communication has been received from the 24-Parganas District Board in the matter?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, whether the Hon'ble Member will be pleased to lay on the table copies of correspondence on the subject?

(*d*) What is the "contribution" referred to in clause (*c*) of the answer referred to above?

(*e*) What reply, if any, has been received to the request referred to therein and whether the work has been taken up?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur of Nadia): (*a*) to (*c*) The reasons are fully stated in the Chairman's letter No. 1094-D.B., of the 2nd September, 1921, a copy of which is laid on the Library table.

(*d*) The contribution referred to amounts to Rs. 38,765 and is required for the completion of the Nowi and Ichapur sections of the scheme.

(*e*) No reply has been received and the work has not been taken up.

Vaccination Department.

***CX. Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that there is a feeling of discontent among the members of the Vaccination Department on account of their claims to an increase in salary having been overlooked?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government are contemplating the transfer of the department to District Boards?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are proposing to reconsider the pay and prospects of the members of the department before making the transfer?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of arranging to credit District Boards with the salaries of the staff of the department?

(*e*) Is it a fact that nearly 26 members of the department who have been serving for ten years or more have not yet been confirmed?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps they intend to take to confirm these officers?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur of Nadia: (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government are considering the petitions received from the vaccinators.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Only eight members who have served for ten years or more have not been confirmed.

(*f*) Government do not propose to confirm them now as their services are about to be transferred to District Boards.

Tour of certain officers of Co-operative Societies to places outside the province.

***CXI. Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) how often, year by year, and on what occasions during the last four years up to the 20th January, 1926, the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bengal, went to Bombay and other places beyond the province;

(*ii*) the names and official designations of other officers of the Co-operative Societies Department, if any, who went to Bombay and other places beyond the province during the said period;

(*iii*) the number of times, year by year, and the nature of business on which each of these officers paid such visits; and

(*iv*) the total amount of travelling and other allowances drawn or to be drawn by each of the officers referred to in (*i*) and (*ii*) from the Government for these visits?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): (*i*) to (*iv*) A statement is laid on the table. The Registrar (Rai Bahadur J. M. Mitra), an Assistant Registrar (Khan Bahadur Quamaruddin Ahmad) and an Inspector (Babu Kiran Chandra Sen) were also deputed to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1925.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: Is it not a fact that the Maclagan Committee on Co-operation recommended that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should visit places outside the province in order to compare notes?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I should like to have notice of this.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. CXI.

Name and designation of officers.	Year.	Place.	Occasion.	Total amount of travelling and other allowances drawn.
				Rs. A. P.
1. Rai J. M. Mitra Bahadur, Registrar of Co-operative Societies.	1922 ..	Bombay ..	To study co-operative house-building scheme ..	2,464 1 0
	1923 ..	Do. ..	To attend the conference of the Commissioners of the British Empire Exhibition.	
	1923 .	Madras .	To settle with the Madras Government the terms of the lease of chank-shell catches in favour of the Dacca Industrial Union.	
	1926 ..	Bombay ..	To attend the conference of the Registrars of Co-operative Societies.	
2. Babu S. K. Ganguli, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Presidency Division	1924 ..	Do ..	To attend the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Conference and to visit local institutions.	266 12 0
3. Khan Sahib Abdul Jalil Khan, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Chittagong Division.	1926 .	Do ..	To attend the Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies.	263 12 0
4. Rai Sahib N. C. Bose, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Burdwan Division.	1925 ..	Punjab ..	To study the system of co-operation consolidation of holdings.	306 7 0
5. Khan Sahib A. K. Kabiruddin Ahmed, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Rajshahi Division.	1925 .	Bombay ..	To attend the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Conference held at Dharwar.	338 12 0
6. Babu A. K. Bose, Sub-Deputy Collector (now Deputy Collector), employed as Inspector of Co-operative Societies.	1925 ..	(a) Bombay ..	(a) To attend the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Conference held at Dharwar.	448 8 6
		(b) Patna ..	(b) To study the system of audit in vogue in the Province.	
7. Babu N. N. Bose, Sub-Deputy Collector, employed as Inspector of Co-operative Societies.	1925 ..	(a) Bangalore ..	(a) To study the working of dairy . ..	401 7 0
		(b) Pusa ..	(b) To attend the meeting of Board of Agriculture ..	
8. Babu Muralidhar Das, Chief Auditor of Co-operative Societies.	1925 ..	Patna ..	To attend the Bihar Co-operative congress and to study the audit system in vogue there.	132 4 0

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Amta Drainage Scheme.

83. Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state how the matter stands at present on the question of the Amta Drainage Scheme?

(*b*) What steps are the Government proposing to take in the near future on this question?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of proceeding with the work without delay?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether, as a result of further estimates, the total amount needed will now be reduced?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) The question is under the consideration of the Agricultural and Public Health Departments.

(*b*) and (*c*) Future action will depend on the reports referred to in (*a*).

(*d*) Improbable.

Internee Benoyendra Mohan Chaudhury.

84. Mr. B. N. SASMAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Benoyendra Mohan Choudhury, an internee at Janka, in the district of Midnapore, has got no winter clothing or at any rate did not get any till the end of December last?

(*b*) Is it a fact that, when he was sent to the District Magistrate of Midnapore by the Superintendent of Police thereof for that purpose, he was not asked by the District Magistrate to take his seat and that when he himself wanted to sit on a chair, the District Magistrate ordered him to talk standing?

(*c*) Is it a fact that subsequently when he went to the Superintendent of Police and desired to send a telegram to the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Stephenson, actually producing the draft thereof, describing the incident, the Superintendent of Police refused to send up the telegram?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Stephenson): (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: May I know the sort of warm clothing which Benoyendra Mohan Chaudhury was provided?

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH STEPHENSON: He had a blanket, a quilt, a coat and a wrapper; but I cannot say what other articles.

Shilmuri Dispensary.

85. Maulvi ASIMUDDIN AHAMAD: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health) be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating increasing its grant or giving more medicine for the Shilmuri dispensary in future?

(*b*) Are the Government contemplating treating cholera, malaria, and kala-azar cases through the Union Boards in the district of Tippera?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur of Nadia: (*a*) The Shilmuri dispensary in the district of Tippera is a class III District Board dispensary and Government do not make any grant to it.

(*b*) Government do not treat cases of disease through Union Boards.

Country Liquor Shop at 113, Cornwallis Street, Calcutta.

86. Khan Bahadur S. MAHBOOB ALEY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries (Excise) be pleased to state whether any, and, if so, how many representations in writing have been received objecting to the location of a country liquor shop at 113, Cornwallis Street, Calcutta?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Ward Councillors have also objected to the location of that shop?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any inquiry was made by the excise or police officers as to those objections?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any of the representations or applications have been withdrawn; and

(*ii*) whether any inquiry was made as to the causes for such withdrawal?

(*e*) Is it a fact that in the Cornwallis Street and in the College Street there is no country liquor shop besides this?

(*f*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of closing this shop?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Two representations were received, one being addressed to the Secretary, Licensing Board, and the other to the Collector of Excise, Calcutta.

(*b*) One Ward Councillor objected, and another of the same ward suggested no change.

(*c*) Inquiries were made by the Excise staff. The site was inspected by the Commissioner of Excise.

(*d*) (*i*) Two of the signatories to one of the petitions withdrew their objections in a subsequent letter. Some of the signatories to the other petition wrote a further letter suggesting only a change of site.

(*ii*) No.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) No. The Licensing Board has decided that the shop should remain on its present site for the year 1926-27.

Institution for Agriculture or Industry near about Calcutta.

87. Babu BORODA PROSAD DEY: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether there is any scheme of establishing near Calcutta any well-equipped institution for either Agriculture or Industry in the near future?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The answer is in the negative.

Admission of a girl with burns to the Calcutta Medical College Emergency Ward.

88. Maulvi WAHED HOSSAIN : (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Medical) be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that on the evening of the 19th October, 1925, a patient, Usharani Dutta, a girl of about 9 years, who was badly burnt all over the body was brought into the Emergency Ward of the Medical College Hospital;

(*ii*) that the Medical Officer-in-charge of the Emergency Ward, Dr. Khagendra Nath Ghose, refused to admit her;

(*iii*) that she had to remain there uncared for for the whole night;

(*iv*) that the next morning Col. Steen admitted her; and

that she remained there as an indoor patient for about two months?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a complaint was preferred by the guardian of the patient to the Principal, Medical College, regarding the above incident?

(*c*) If so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur of Nadia: (*a*) (*i*) A girl stated to be 11 years old and suffering from burns was admitted to the Emergency Ward of the Medical College Hospital on the 19th October, 1925, at 6-25 P.M., *i.e.*, immediately after she was brought in by her relatives.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) She was promptly attended to by the Resident Medical Officer on duty and kept under observation.

(*iv*) As the hospital was under repairs an extra bed was arranged for the patient and she was transferred to the Indian Female Ward next morning by the Resident Surgeon.

(*v*) She was treated in hospital from 19th October to 8th December, 1925, when she was discharged cured.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) An inquiry was made by the Superintendent, Medical College Hospital, who found that the delay in admission to the Indian Female Ward was unavoidable as two wards were totally closed for quadrennial repairs and the remaining accommodation was seriously overcrowded. The complainant was duly informed of this by letter.

Raising of fee-rates in schools.

89. Mr. B. N. SASMAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Inspectors of Schools have made the raising of school fees a condition precedent to the awarding of increased grants-in-aid to High English Schools from the amount sanctioned in the last budget to improve the condition of teachers of Secondary Schools?

(*b*) Is it a fact that many aided schools have already expressed their unwillingness to raise the fee-rates any further?

(*c*) If so, are the Government proposing to withdraw the condition precedent imposed by the Inspectors of Schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*a*) In a very considerable number of cases.

(*b*) Fee raising is never popular but there has been no general objection to the policy followed.

(c) Government have no intention of modifying their policy except in special cases as the 3-lakh grant was sanctioned with the specific object of improving the pay and prospects of teachers in non-Government schools. This object cannot be fully achieved unless the parents and guardians of pupils make a contribution towards the increased charge. As a result of this policy of Government many teachers have received real increases in pay, the total amount of increase received by them as a result of the policy followed amounting to a very considerable sum far exceeding the 3 lakhs voted.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

General Discussion on the Budget of the Government of Bengal.

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER: It is not altogether unexpected that the third and last Budget of the present Council will not differ materially from its predecessors and I can hardly find anything either to congratulate the province or the worthy Finance Member, who to all intents and purposes is its maker. The constant repetition of manufacturing processes leads to standardisation and I wonder if the Hon'ble Finance Member has naturally but unwittingly been overcome by the same tendency. The Budget before us is the same old story thrice told, though an attempt has been made to give touches here and there for making a pompous show. At the outset the Hon'ble Finance Member has thus tried to bring out some differences both in form and essence.

In form the difference is said to lie in its characterisation as a "Reserved" one. Perhaps the Hon'ble Finance Member wanted to impress on us by implication that the Budgets of the two previous years bore some stamp of responsibility. But was that really so? Under the hybrid constitution imposed upon us could the Ministers' Budget extend beyond the petty concessions given to them by the sweet will of the Finance Member and his comrades on the irresponsible side? The demands of the Reserved Departments, notoriously exorbitant, must first be met; with bureaucratic management, there is not only no hope of retrenchment on that side, there is every possibility of increased extravagance in extensions of patronage to the heaven-born service, in the maintenance of Law and Order, and for all those spending establishments the claims of which are preferential. Ministers may come and Ministers may go but the Finance Member goes on for ever with his own idea of making a Budget. He and his friends will have the lion's share, to the Ministers or the people's side being thrown only a few crumbs. In these circumstances, Ministers or no Ministers, there can only be one form of Budget and its characterisation as "Reserved" or otherwise is meaningless and hollow.

I was wondering why the Finance Member was so keen on preserving a semblance of distinction between the purely Reserved and erstwhile Transferred Departments. It is natural that in dealing with Transferred Departments the Hon'ble Members of the Reserved Side should take upon themselves a little of the responsibility that would have devolved on the Ministers, had they been there. They must have been conscious that criticism, if any, would be directed to them alone and that there were no Ministers to act as buffers on whom responsibility could be fixed. That is why the so-called Transferred Departments have been the recipients of somewhat greater favours than before; whereby the Ministers' Budget of Transferred Departments in the previous years have been made to exhibit to us how far they suffer by comparison with the Reserved Department Budget clad in newly-acquired responsibility.

How far we can be impressed with the advance that has been made and whether the so-called improvements amount to any practical good to "Bengal and its people"—I will discuss presently, but first, I think,-I should clear up a point here which is likely to be exaggerated. The Finance Member appears to display his munificence by telling us that he has provided for a capital expenditure of Rs. 51 lakhs in favour of the Transferred Departments as against only 15½ lakhs in favour of the Reserved. But, Sir, these paper provisions do not inspire confidence. It is notorious that every year considerable portions of these sanctioned grants lapse, either because there is no scheme ready or because the local bodies cannot fulfil the conditions with which the grants are hedged in. During the four years 1921-25, it should be noticed that 17½ lakhs of Education grant, 11½ lakhs of Medical grant, 5½ lakhs of Agricultural grant and 6 lakhs of Industrial grant were allowed to lapse. During the last two years of that period 3½ lakhs of Public Health grant similarly lapsed. If we add to these 44 lakhs, the 7½ lakhs that constitute the difference between the Budget and the revised estimates of the current year the total of the sums budgeted for but not at all available for nation-building comes to more than 51 lakhs. The generosity therefore is more of a show than real. In the next Budget season there is every likelihood of the Hon'ble Finance Member having to reiterate the same old tale of grants lapsing for want of proper schemes and non-fulfilment of the hard conditions imposed on the local bodies.

I am not, of course, unaware of the difficulties of the Finance Member. The very nature of our governmental system compels him to spend the bulk of his resources in keeping up the pomp and circumstance of administration. It would be something if even after all this terrible waste and criminal extravagance on costly shows and pageants he could have devoted some attention to the true interests of the people. That also, however, becomes impossible by reason of his irresponsible character and extra-national tendencies. He is not of

the people and hence cannot be with the people while on the other hand he is vitally interested in maintaining the so-called dignity of the Government—the dignity that is supposed to inspire (or low down) the people with awe—a sentiment that is so very essential for safeguarding foreign exploitation.

In substance the novelty of this year's Budget is said to consist in the remission of the provincial contribution, enabling the Finance Member to "Devise schemes for the general improvement and amelioration of Bengal and its people." In other words with more money in his pocket the Finance Member has worked up within himself a higher degree of self-compliance, but he is much mistaken if he thinks that his much advertised satisfaction will delude a single true lover of Bengal, however, optimistic, into approval.

Coming to high sounding "Schemes for the general improvement and amelioration of Bengal and its people" let us analyse some of them and see whether they constitute any difference in essence as is claimed for the Budget before us.

It is admitted on all hands that "Bengal and its people" labour under a great handicap of illiteracy to which their dreary economic and sanitary condition is largely due. The percentage of literacy is 10 and this means that 90 people out of 100 are constantly crying in the wilderness for deliverance from darkness and its horrors. And for the alleviation of this we find no fresh provision in this year's Budget except Rs. 2 lakhs for increase of emoluments of trained teachers in primary schools and some hot air spent on future schemes to come. In other words the most vital problem for the province is consigned to postponment, if not abandonment. We are told Messrs. Lindsay and Oaten are now engaged in formulating some sort of a comprehensive scheme in the interest of Primary Education but looking at the past ways of the Government and the fate of all such scheme installed by the Government any hope of real benefit coming therefrom is doomed to disappointment. Statistics disclose ·15 as the annual rate of increase in literacy in Bengal; the Budget which is so callously inactive in accelerating the intolerably tardy progress of this vital need is a futile Budget which would unblushingly cover over with dark clouds the fair face of Bengal for 666 years before the light of education, at the rate at which it is sought to be provided can disperse them.

Turn your eyes to any other crying problem—public health for example. As I have observed before, the darkness that enshrouds it is thickly impenetrable. Death rides through it in merry revel. Kala-azar, malaria, cholera and all the emissaries of death claim 14 lakhs of human souls as their annual victims in this province alone. When it is a question of life and death to lakhs of human beings is it not imperative to view the position as one of emergency? Safety

first, everything else afterwards. Without the slightest exaggeration, a picture of unsurpassable horror can be drawn of the deaths in villages—deaths which might have been prevented—and in the face of such picture Government indifference in the matter amounts to inaction indistinguishable from murder. What provision is made in the Budget to meet this dire emergency,—this agonised cry of millions of people in death's fateful grip? An addition of 12½ lakhs has been provided for in the current year, of this less than 5 lakhs is allotted for the benefit of rural areas where the dumb millions live. A problem which should be tackled with all the brains and munificence that Government can command is contemptuously put aside with a most negligible support. A stupendous but nevertheless urgent scheme like the supply of good drinking water receives the grudging contribution of only Rs. 2 lakhs 84 thousand this year, though the opening balance amounted to about 2 crores. The trustees of the lives of millions squander the public funds on Law and Order (?) and treat with contempt the sacred trust that both human and divine providence has reposed in them and make naught of the glorious example which their Saviour bequeathed to them with his blood. Instances can be repeated without number of the pitiableness and urgency of the people's problem, and the mean and ridiculous response given to them in the Budget. This state of things has hardened into brazen callousness on the part of the rulers whose sympathies have been blunted and whose finer feelings have been overcast by power to do as they please, and by the selfish instinct of consolidating such power by throwing the public funds into interested and favoured channels. In the result, the Province is being wasted by disease, death, penury and pestilence, its industries choked, its agriculture impeded, the wolves of starvation howling at every door. The vitality of the soil and the soul of its children nevertheless remain, and there is yet some hope of rescuing them from their swift descent towards perdition and bringing them back to pristine vigour wherefrom may spring the streams of progress and improvement changing the past and present aspect of horror into one of smiling hope and fresh endeavour. But such a transformation is not possible as long as a Budget of this nature, framed by people who doggedly refuse to meet the situation, is allowed to rule our finances. The difficulty and urgency of the problem require it to be grappled with tenacity, sympathy and scientific foresight. Tinkering may put on unsightly patches, save a life or two here and there, but its result as a whole needs must remain more than depressing. Year after year we see the same tinkering and patchwork going on and no endeavours made to formulate comprehensive schemes to fight on all fronts the forces arraigned against our lives and property. It is not that the Government is unable to conceive and bring into operation a complete comprehensive scheme which will redound to the permanent good of the multitude. Where their own interests are concerned, they are not behindhand in conceiving and carrying out beautiful, though

stupendously costly schemes of roadways and bridges for their motor tours and other luxuries. The real reason for their deficiency in regard to the former is that they have not the heart wherewith to sense our misery nor have we the means to compel their will to act. In these circumstances ample logic is always available in support of their position. The practical questions I wish to ask them are: Have they done anything in these five years of Reformed Administration calculated to assuage an iota of the peoples' miseries? Have they for one single year endeavoured to carry out some retrenchment in the top-heavy administration for the purpose of diverting the saving to the projects of public welfare, even as an experiment? No, they have not done so, nor do they hope to do so, on the Finance Member's own showing. I will concede the truth in the Finance Member's promise that "Expansion in the future must necessarily be circumscribed". Saddled as we are with a constitution which amongst other things exacts a toll of about 70 per cent. of our total revenue in favour of the Central Government and the fact that taxation cannot be stretched any further to yield appreciable increse of revenue, we have no recourse except in pessimism so long as the finances are administered by people without sympathy—that driving force for doing good which is the pass word to success in nation-building. Having failed so repeatedly and so flagrantly they have no moral right to reserve to themselves the privilege of framing another Budget; they cannot conscientiously continue as trustees of the dumb millions whom they cannot save. Cannot they, Sir, even at this stage make their peace with God and man by relinquishing their broken trust in favour of those whose lives are being spent for the beneficiaries, whose hearts bleed for them, whose keen sympathies alone will suffice with God's mercy and blessing, to lead them along the right path? Let the Imperial Government try that experiment for once, in their much vaunted sporting spirit, and they will see that finances will not be lacking for comprehensive and really beneficial schemes, they will find that the aspect of the country side will soon be changed. It is only by economic improvement even though that should entail the greatest sacrifice that the taxable capacity of people can be increased, and fresh avenues opened up for improvement in finances. But if the road is blocked by inaction year after year and the *status quo* is maintained under the camouflage of a little tinkering here and little patchwork there, there is no hope for the country; and a Government which attempts to perpetuate this state of things will bring upon its head the blood of dying millions.

We do not want the futile Budget of last year presented to us with a better dressed window, we demand a Budget which tackles the vital problems of the day with courage and sympathy and in a scientific frame of mind. We do not want simple arithmetic presented to us year after year with the same dull monotony, as by a junior accountant

in a commercial house, we want Finance Member of the right type to frame our Budget——

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up but I allow you two minutes more to finish your speech.

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER: Last year I suggested, Sir, a loan for the Nation-Building Departments, the raising of which, if left to the representative of the nation, would not prove to be of insuperable difficulty. I then challenged the Government either to give my suggestion a trial, or to come forward with some other feasible solution of the difficulty. To any such practical proposal the reply is always that of a superior and imperturbable silence——

(Here the member having reached his time-limit had to resume his seat.)

Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: Following the ordinary usage in this House, I propose to offer some general observations on the financial position as disclosed in the Budget, and on the Government administrative policy bearing mainly on the two departments with which I have a fair acquaintance, namely, Education and Administration of Justice.

It is something to be thankful for that the Government of India have relieved us of the contribution of 63 lakhs, but I am sure the Hon'ble Finance Member's expectation is well-founded that it will not be reimposed. Indeed, it cannot be otherwise, but so long as Bengal has not a larger income than a beggarly 10 or 11 crores to meet her enormous wants, it will be idle to hope that those who are in the least interested in the welfare of the province will never settle down to a state of mind filled with confidence and hope in the future, or that the Government can ever successfully launch upon an adequate programme of beneficient activity likely to absorb the attention of earnest workers. Is not the Government of India aware of the nature and magnitude of the urgent problems that call for solution before we can hope to ameliorate the miserable lot of the millions of Bengal? Kala-azar and malaria, silting of big rivers, water generally choked with water-hyacinth, tuberculosis and cholera, lack of decent drinking water, reconstruction of hundreds and thousands of villages, want of education and the illiteracy of about 80 per cent. of the population, comprehensive schemes of technical and vocational education; these to only mention a few. The task before us is, indeed, appalling, but it has to be undertaken and it can be undertaken with success provided the Government of India do not stand in our way. I earnestly join in the protest which member after member in this House has made against that most inequitable financial arrangement so familiar to us as the Meston Award. Let the Government of Bengal go on pressing our demand until we have got the arrangement modified to our satisfaction.

May I mention here that as regards the present Budget, I agree with those who cannot see the necessity or expediency of accumulating such a large balance as 2 crores of rupees. It cannot, indeed, be seriously said that there is no non-recurring work on which it would be desirable that the whole or a good portion should be utilised, for instance, the supply of good drinking water; we have not even got a Council Chamber in Bengal; all the other provinces have that. I do hope that these balances will be utilised as far as possible in the course of the next year.

I wish to congratulate the Government, not really on the Budget in which after all there is nothing that appeals strongly to our imagination, but on a certain tone of earnestness and an attempt to define a policy which I noticed in the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Donald. With reference to kala-azar he said: "It is the intention of Government to carry on an intensive campaign against this fell disease during the next three years". That was very refreshing to hear from our extremely cautious Finance Member. Again, in dealing with the question of Primary Education he said it has become obvious that we are spending disproportionately on higher education and neglecting the masses. Then, he went on, "the amount until our finances further recover cannot be larger, but we can at least make a beginning." Here we get a glimmer of courage and let us hope that it will be kept to the sticking point and not allowed to be overcome by a policy of unconditional surrender to Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea and his Unlimited Demand Company.

Mr. Donald tells us that Government are providing 7 lakhs for Education over and above the revised estimates of the current year. While I welcome this statement on its own merits, I would like to know to what extent is this but a restoration to the Education Budget of all that has been retrenched from it in pursuance of the Retrenchment Committee's Report, and what was the amount obtained from enhancement of fees and other sources of income in schools and colleges.

I was pleased to note that the Education Department are working on a Bill for Primary Education and that it is intended to submit their concrete proposals to the Council in the next session. May I in this connection impress a few points on them. A specific Education cess will become necessary, but it should be made as light as possible, and the burden should fall mainly on those who can bear it best. The Government must contribute a substantial and fair share of the provincial revenue towards the cost. The Bengal Government's attitude hitherto towards the education of the masses reflects little credit on them. Of all the Provincial Governments, the Bengal Government does the least in this matter for the people, while the poor people of Bengal do much more for themselves than the people of other provinces. If you will look at the figures which are given in Mr. Biss'

report, and the Annual Educational Survey of Mr. Richey of the Government of India you will realise the full significance of my statement. On the other hand our Government does far more for the education of the better-off classes than other Governments in India. I am sorry to observe that the Government's motto seems to be "to those that have much more shall be given". There must be a clear purpose behind the Government's scheme for Primary Education. It must ensure that the boys and girls do not lapse into illiteracy, do not acquire a distaste for manual labour and in fact feel that such labour is as honourable as any other form of labour; their hands and eyes must be trained. They must be given instruction in their own village industries and crafts; they must be taught the simple rules of hygiene and health and the value of co-operative work and above all they must be instructed in the dictates of their religion.

In the other important branches of Education—University and Secondary Education—I see no sign in the Budget or in the Hon'ble Mr. Donald's speech of any definition of policy, unless it be one of surrender and inaction. I have, no doubt, that Government desire to do something but they are afraid that they will not get sufficient support. I would advise them to take courage in both hands and do the right thing; they will get ample support. At present the average product of our schools and colleges is a by-word of incompetence throughout India and is a sheer burden and a source of anxiety to both their parents and the society. Let there be a definite purpose behind each stage of education so that it would be clearly seen that there is something definite which the boys can learn to do—some craft, some vocation, some profession or research or learning. If you remodel the present wholly aimless system of teaching you can make a good beginning in the proper direction. Government must establish a well co-ordinate system of technical and vocational education and here I warn them against relying too much on the calculations of experts. On questions of policy they are hopeless as advisers, however, indispensable they are for the technical work assigned to them. Here let me utter a word of protest against the proposal of the Calcutta University to introduce the vernacular as a medium of instruction up to the matriculation standard. It will be a most retrograde step. Poor as the Secondary and University Standards are now, they will go down still further and my own luckless community in particular would be put back again. Besides, a change of language has other very important aspects and I assure the Government that my community will not accept it, and in this matter we shall have the support and sympathy of our co-religionists all over India. With reference to the grant of Rs. 2,43,000 to the Calcutta University are not the Government going to endow a Chair of Arabic and Persian and help in this way to remove the most glaring educational need at last realised though rather late, by the Calcutta University itself?

I thank Government for the provision they have made for the Islamia College but I must point out to them the necessity of additional hostel accommodation for Moslem students in Calcutta who are not admitted, I understand, into any of those huge buildings in College Square and who have only two small houses wholly inadequate for their accommodation. The Moslem Institute in the Madrassa, badly need a decent and adequate building; there is also an urgent need for a playground not only for the Madrassa but also for those students who will, I am sure, flock to the Islamia College.

I strongly support Nawab Musharruf Hossain's demand for a high school for Moslem girls. Government must be aware that they labour under special difficulties in this respect and it is their duty to make special provision for the removal of those difficulties. I can tell them that even in Madras where the Moslem population is insignificant they have a Government High School for Girls.

(Here the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to speak for two minutes more.)

There is also the need—well known to Government—for a Muslim Hall in Dacca in connection with the Dacca University.

With reference to the Administration of Justice I wish to know if Government will take any effective steps to remedy the scandalous state of things in respect of the exclusion of Muhammadans from the Judicial Service where only out of 300 and odd officers about a dozen are Muhammadans. I know the whole position and I say deliberately that there is no justification whatever for perpetuating this injustice and what I should call an insult to my community. If the law requires overhauling it must be done at once. I wish to say nothing more on the present occasion regarding the Administration of Justice but if my position is challenged I will have a good deal to say later on.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member on his great sense of relief—a relief to the whole province indeed—as the nightmare of provincial contribution has ceased to disturb him (though not permanently) and as he has been able to find a fabulous amount of over Rs. 2 crores in the balance. Next I thank him most heartily for his not proposing any fresh taxation in the near future. It is hopeful indeed that Government have been showing symptoms of becoming a little sympathetic to the people and have probably realised that the province has no capacity to be taxed further.

Turning to the Income and Expenditure Estimates in the Budget, it is apparent that there is a deficit to the extent of 20½ lakhs which the Government are going to make up by drawing from out of the balances. I am sure that this big amount in the balances was brought

about by systematically starving the Nation-Building Departments in spite of repeated and pressing demands made on behalf of them.

Now, Sir, remission of the provincial contributions, stamp receipts, registration fees are to a great extent responsible for the increased revenue. Some savings have also been made on the sanctioned estimates of expenses as it was not possible to give full effect to the schemes for which money was voted during the rains sessions, one of such estimates being the estimate of Rs. 2½ lakhs for rural water-supply. This big amount for a province with a population of over 40 millions living in the villages could not be spent. The reasons advanced by the Hon'ble Member for the inability of the Government to spend the amount is unacceptable. Contribution must come from the locality before Government grant can be disbursed—a very wise policy indeed to evade spending the amount allotted for rural water-supply. Whether contribution or no contribution, the entire amount should have been spent considering the magnitude of water scarcity in the villages of the province. If the estimates of Mr. G. S. Dutt to remove water scarcity be taken as correct, it will take several centuries to meet this vital problem, if provision be made in this homeopathic dose. In the next year's Budget we have got an amount of Rs. 2 lakhs 84 thousand—and I am afraid at the end of the year the Hon'ble Finance Member will come forward with a plea that the full amount could not be spent. Though the Registration Department has supplied a greater revenue than was estimated for, no provision has been made for the improvement of either the officers or their staff with regard to their pay or accommodation.

Now, Sir, I shall begin with the Education Department. The Hon'ble Finance Member has said in his Budget Speech that Education has on this occasion come out very well in the allocation and has obtained a very substantial share of the money that is available for new expenditure. He has not been able to check the temptation of telling us in a somewhat roundabout way and in a very delicate manner that education has received more of the loaves and fishes. But on examination of the figures I see that this department has got nothing of the kind—primary education having got hard stones. He says that the estimate for 1926-27 is higher by Rs. 6,11,000 over the Revised Estimates for the year. In the Revised Estimates we find a decrease of Rs. 2,65,000 than what was sanctioned by the House. Then I may fairly say that the real increase is by Rs. 3,46,000 only and not by Rs. 6,11,000. He says that the saving of Rs. 2,65,000 was earned by non-utilisation in full of the provisions for grants-in-aid and the supplementary grants and allowances and honoraria. The manner in which these savings have been spoken of to have accrued is far from desirable and exhibits a lack of earnestness on the part of the authorities in the Education Department to improve the system and condition of education.

Out of the increased amount of Rs. 6,11,000, Rs. 36,000 has been kept apart at the outset to meet increments of pay to be earned by the officers and their staff—leaving Rs. 5,75,000 for new schemes. Anybody who has perused the statements and examined the figures stated between the pages 54 to 59 of the book "Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1926-27" cannot help thinking that a very small amount has been provided to improve education—while the bigger portion of the amount will go for the purpose of new building grants, purchase of furniture and to pay for the increments to be earned by the officers and their staff. Not a single farthing has been allotted out of this increased provision of Rs. 6,11,000 to provide for any grants-in-aid to non-Government secondary schools.

Primary education has got no share in the "loaves and fishes". Primary education must stand where it is—though the Hon'ble Finance Member admits, perhaps, in an unguarded moment that Government have been spending disproportionately on higher education and neglecting the masses and would not commence a policy of increasing their funds for primary education. This proposed policy I have not been able to understand quite clearly.

I am afraid that the amount provided for primary schools will never be spent so long as the scheme of half and half basis remains. It is not possible that local bodies will be able to find this amount from out of their ordinary revenues. The local bodies will have to embark on their part on a policy to raise money for schools on the Biss scheme by taxation if they want any amount for starting, which, as everybody knows the people is not in a position to pay. Sir, whether local contribution or no contribution, on the half and half basis or any other basis, the Government are in duty bound to spend the entire amount and to provide for additional grants each year when Government feel that the claims of the masses have so far been neglected. I should like to request the Hon'ble Finance Member to compare the Education Budget of the Assam Government. If I remember aright, two-thirds of the total Educational Grant will be devoted for the furtherance of primary education. I shall repeat what I said at the last Budget discussion: "Is it creditable, Sir, on the part of the most civilised Government not to have been able to make primary education free in Bengal, when about 90 per cent. of the population are illiterate"?

Now, coming to the medical head—I thank the Hon'ble Member for making an attempt to help the opening of five medical schools within a very short time. On the head of Public Health, I find that no appreciable increment has been made with regard to the grants to the local bodies for improvement of rural water-supply by augmentation grants to District Boards, extensive anti-malarial measures in rural areas—in view of the fact that the total increased estimate on this head is over 12 lakhs of rupees. The Lewis Jubilee Sanitarium

at Darjeeling has got Rs. 16,000 to be relieved of its financial distress. It is a regular hotel and not a public institution in the strict sense of the term. Why a hotel should get any amount, however small, out of the Provincial Revenue, I fail to understand.

I would like to speak a few words about the sanitary condition of my district of Dinajpur. I told the House last year how the population of Dinajpur has been very fast falling off and how we have been falling victims in thousands and with geometrical progression to malaria pernicious, malaria, kala-azar, blackwater-fever—a companion of recent development. The headquarter town has turned out to be a veritable hell. The river Ghagra which passes through the heart of the town remains stagnant throughout the year. Its water never passes out but dries up at places during summer. It spreads germs of malaria, kala-azar, blackwater-fever and several other diseases. His Excellency during his tour in November, 1924, visited the river at some places personally and I am told that His Excellency gave kind words of hope of financial help to improve the sanitary condition of the town by turning the river into a big drain. I also told some months ago about the same to some gentlemen in the Official Bench, perhaps Mr. Goode or Mr. Woodhead but no provision has been thought fit to be made in the Budget to improve the condition of the town. I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member to the deplorable state of the mode of communication in the district. With an area of about 4,000 square miles and a population of about 17 lakhs it has only a little over 50 miles of railways. The District Board has not been able, in spite of its best efforts, to properly maintain the existing cart roads the only means of communication. The peculiar nature of the soil has added to its difficulties. The roads dissolve into sticky clay during the rains rendering them impassable. It may not be unknown to the House that Dinajpur is a great paddy producing district. It exports paddy to an enormous extent. On account of the bad condition of the roads, commerce comes at a standstill during this season, when the price is at its highest causing great hardships to the traders and cultivators and loss of wealth to the district. We requested the authorities several times to provincialise the road, called the Darjeeling Road, which connects two subdivisions with the headquarter and to have it metalled, but unfortunately no step has yet been taken in that direction.

The next thing I wish to deal with is the Police Budget. It is in excess by 4 lakhs. Rupees 6,000 are required to revise the scale and to increase the pay of the Sub-Inspectors of Police. I do not grudge these custodians of law and order receiving increase of their pay, but at the same time I shall only hope that their efficiency will improve and that these gentlemen will try to prove by practical means and actions that the charge levelled against them by the people will have no foundation hereafter.

On the building side of the Police Budget, a scheme has been proposed with an expenditure of Rs. 3,32,000—1½ lakhs to be paid out of the next year's revenue—for the construction of Reserve Police Lines at Barisal. May I ask whether any member of Police Force at the Barisal Reserve Lines has died or suffered seriously after the Barisal Police Reserve Lines buildings have been declared unsuitable and insanitary? Has anybody in the Calcutta Police expressed any desire to give up his service if palatial building is not provided for his housing. These sorts of schemes are indeed schemes for the general improvement and amelioration of Bengal and its people!

A word or two about the Agricultural Budget and I have finished. Money has been provided to agricultural farms in some of the districts. I personally saw some such farms. The mode in which agriculture is contemplated to be and also practically carried on in these farms will be of no practical use to agriculturists. In Bengal 90 per cent. of the agriculturists have small holdings and they cannot profitably follow the costly processes with regard to the constructions of cow-shed, preserving manures, etc., observed in these model farms. An amount of Rs. 16,000 has been provided for arboricultural projects to be carried on Duars roads. The Duars have already got roads—just like the Red Road of Calcutta. This amount is perhaps required to allow the angels living in the Tea Gardens of the Duars to drive their motor cars beneath the shady trees.

In conclusion I request the Government in all earnestness to make adequate provisions for improving the sanitary condition of the District of Dinajpur, specially that of the town and to save it from depopulation, to provincialise the aforesaid Darjeeling Road and with a view to facilitate commerce and mode of communication to take early steps for getting the sanctioned Dinajpur-Luhia Railway line extended up to Atwari, the northernmost extremity of the district.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: Under the Reforms Scheme we can move amendments for the reduction of Budget grants, but not for the increment thereof. We are, however, allowed under that scheme to make suggestions to increase grants and therefore I take this opportunity of submitting a few suggestions for the favourable consideration of Government. In the year 1922 at my suggestion this Council was pleased to resolve to provide agricultural schools with farms attached to them, commercial schools with museums attached to them, and industrial schools with workshops attached to them in every district of Bengal, but I am really sorry to find that no adequate provision has been made in the Budget to give effect to this resolution—the resolution which was unanimously carried by this Council and accepted by Government. So far as agricultural education is concerned, I may mention that 90 per cent. of the people of Bengal depend on

agriculture. Sir, we all know that the prices of rice and other food-grains have been going up from year to year. We find that the price of Balam rice in the year 1873 was Rs. 2-2-0 per maund, but in the year 1922 it went up to Rs. 9 per maund. It is alleged that due to export of rice and other food-grains from Bengal to foreign countries the prices have gone so much, but I beg to submit, Sir, that due to competition with Burma and Siam, on the contrary, the export trade of Bengal on rice has been greatly affected. What is the reason for the high prices of food-grains—it is because that the outturn of these food-grains has been going down from year to year and the want of agricultural education is responsible for this present deplorable state of things. I would draw your attention to the report of the Indian Industrial Commission of 1918 which was appointed by the Government. It appears from that report that the average yield per acre of wheat in the United Provinces and Bombay in the previous year was 1,250 lbs. while in Belgium it was 2,174 lbs. So far as rice is concerned, the average yield in India per acre is only half of what it is in Japan. It further appears from the report that the high prices of food-stuffs and the consequent suffering to which the bulk of the people are exposed have made the question of increasing the yield of our food-crops also one of great and pressing importance, and that we are producing in a normal year just enough to meet our requirements of food consumption with no surplus to meet the contingency of a failure of the rains in the ensuing year. It is because of the want of agricultural education that the yield of the food-grains has been coming down from year to year and the price of these food-grains has been going up from year to year and it is, therefore, regrettable that no adequate provision has been made by the Government in this Budget for the establishment of agricultural schools with farms attached to them in every district of Bengal notwithstanding the fact that this Council has come to an unanimous resolution to that effect.

It is the same with regard to commercial and industrial education. It appears from page 309 of that report that in the year 1896 when a famine had broken out in a more or less acute form throughout India, the Indian National Congress urged that the true remedy against the recurrence of famine lies in the adoption of a policy which would enforce economy and husband the resources of the State. In the year 1898 that Congress prayed that having regard to the poverty of the people and the decline of indigenous industries, the Government will be pleased to introduce a more elaborate and efficient scheme of technical instruction and set apart more funds for a better and more successful working of the same. In the year 1906 that Congress again urged that primary education should be made free and gradually compulsory all over the country and that adequate provision should be made for technical education in the several provinces of India. But, Sir,

neither the recommendations of the Indian Famine Commission nor the representations of the Indian National Congress, nor those of the Indian Industrial Conference produced much effect. Speaking at the Industrial Conference convened by Government in 1907, Sir John Hewett, the then Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces said: "The question of technical and industrial education has been before the Government and the public for over twenty years. There is probably no subject on which more has been written or said, while less has been accomplished." In the year 1922 at my suggestion this Council was pleased to resolve that commercial schools with museums attached to them and industrial schools with workshops attached to them should be established in every district in Bengal, but I am really sorry to find that the Government has not thought it fit to provide sufficient funds or any funds at all for the encouragement of commercial and technical education in Bengal.

Sir, as regards primary education it is most regrettable that notwithstanding what has been stated by our esteemed friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Donald, nothing practically has been done. From time to time the Indian National Congress have prayed before the Government that primary education should not only be encouraged but should be made free and compulsory, but what has been done to give effect to their recommendations? Nothing appears to have been done and that is the reason why there is so much discontent among the masses of Bengal.

Let us see what has been stated by an official of the Government of India—I would draw attention to the report on primary education by Mr. Biss of the Indian Educational Service—who in his report for 1922 states that in the year 1918-19, a sum of Rs. 16,60,000 was contributed by Government for primary education in Bengal, in Madras the Government contribution was Rs. 42,18,000 and in Bombay it was Rs. 56,21,000; thus Madras has contributed 51 per cent. of the total expenditure from provincial revenue, though her population is less than that of Bengal; Bombay, which has the population of less than half that of Bengal, has contributed 66 per cent., while Bengal 32 per cent. only. Moreover, the total expenditure on primary schools in Bengal compares very unfavourably in comparison with that either in Madras or in Bombay. The cost per head in regard to this is also very low in Bengal. It is, therefore, most desirable that the expenditure on primary schools of Bengal should be more generous. I admit since that year the Government of Bengal has been pleased to increase the grant to a certain extent but this increase is too insignificant to be of any practical utility. Sir, by mere increasing contributions for this purpose, the cause of primary education will not be materially accelerated. Sir, the results will not be tangible unless and until primary education is made free and compulsory as early as possible.

I now come to agricultural loans to cultivators. Sir, I find that sufficient money has not been provided for in the Budget for agricultural loans to cultivators of some of the districts of Bengal the rice crop of which have seriously been affected by insufficient rainfall this year. We find from an official report that in the district of Nadia the rice crop this year is 67 per cent., in Birbhum 67 per cent., in Bankura 58 per cent. and Hooghly 62 per cent. But, Sir, I as a trader, who have business connection with several districts of Bengal may be allowed to say that the actual state of things is much worse than what it appears from a perusal of the official report. Sir, the official figure for the rice crop in the 24-Parganas is 83 per cent., but as a matter of fact it is not more than 50 per cent. and in that of the district of Bankura it is not more than 25 per cent. Therefore, Sir, there is no denying the fact that if the agricultural loans are not given to the poor cultivators of those districts in the course of two or three months, the result would be disastrous and the price of rice will go up in consequence.

I now come to the all-important question of the supply of pure drinking water. We all know that cholera is a preventable disease and for want of pure drinking water in the mufassal the rate of mortality is very heavy. Sir, what is the reason for such a high mortality in cholera? It is nothing but inadequate supply of pure drinking water in the mufassal. I, therefore, submit that adequate provision for good drinking water should be provided for in the Budget for excavating tanks and wells so that people may have the benefit of pure drinking water. With this purpose in view sufficient contributions should be made to the Municipalities, Local Boards and Union Boards. Sir, the money which has been allotted for this purpose is most inadequate and the conditions under which these grants are made are prohibitive too.

As regards the question of milk-supply, not only in Calcutta, but also in other parts of Bengal, it is too small to meet the requirements of children, not to speak of adults. And, Sir, what is the reason for this dearth of cow's milk? It is the want of sufficient pasture-grounds, insufficient number of stud-bulls and veterinary charitable dispensaries in almost every part of Bengal. The natural consequence is the heavy death of infant mortality in Bengal. So far as pasture-grounds are concerned, it is 1·6 acres per 100 cattle in the United States of America, but in Bengal it is only ·17 acre. The total number of stud-bulls in the year 1921-22 maintained by Government, by mufassal municipalities and by several District Boards as well as private persons was 158 only.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Mr. Addy.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: One minute more, Sir, and I will finish. It may be asked, where is the money to come from to meet these charges. We may make a representation to the Government of

India to allow us to utilise a certain portion of the income-tax and super-tax which have been levied in Bengal. Before the introduction of the Reform Scheme, half of the revenue derived from income-tax was allotted to Bengal, but now, Sir, under the so-called Reform Scheme the whole of it is taken away by the Government of India, though we were given to understand that sufficient money would be allotted for the said purposes when the three Taxation Bills were enacted into law. Nothing has since been done.

(Here the member had to resume his seat).

Babu BORODA PROSAD DEY: Sir, in rising to make a few observations upon the Budget Estimates for the year 1926-27 I beg to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member upon the very lucid and plausible statement made by him in presenting the same to the Council. It has been well said: The nightmare of our provincial contribution has ceased to disturb us, but, Sir, we must not rest contented with this very small mercy, but be up and doing to undo the most iniquitous and unjustifiable Meston Award. We cannot reconcile ourselves to the situation of an empty purse with such big incomes from jute export trade, the monopoly of Bengal, and from our not by any means inconsiderable shares in the income-tax and Customs duties, all, alas, appropriated by the Government of India on the principle that *might is right*. Sir, there will be absolutely no chance for the advancement of Bengal till this settled fact is unsettled by the combined efforts of Bengal's Government and her people. Sir, the next outstanding fact is that although a full year has rolled away, we are still a maimed Council, in having two of our most esteemed colleagues prevented by Government from attending the Council, and our helplessness in the matter is really very regrettable. It appears to me, Sir, that constitutionally the Budget cannot be passed by such a Council. I beg, therefore, once more to enter my most emphatic protest against this most unjustifiable act of the Government, including the recent act leading to hunger-strike at Burma. I beg also to enter my protest against limiting the general discussion of the Budget to two days. Although it is true that opportunities are afforded for criticism, when different demands are made, yet the policy of allowing only two days for general discussion to so many members, is quite on a par with the policy of allowing two or three days for the discussion of more than one hundred resolutions listed for a session. Now, Sir, coming to the Budget itself we find the Hon'ble Finance Member seems to be in a mood of depression for Excise revenue has not increased, and in a mood of elation for the Stamp revenue has increased beyond expectation. How we wish, Sir, that our Finance Member will be in the reversed moods for nationally we rejoice in the decrease of Excise revenue, and regret in the increase of Stamp revenue. But, Sir, we are nowhere and nobodies. Now, Sir, coming to the Expenditure side,

and taking the last item of the Hon'ble Finance Member as my first, *viz.*, Education, it gives me very great pleasure that after long last the question of the Calcutta University has been so satisfactorily settled, and we gratefully recognise the parts played in this matter by both His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Finance Member. This is really a proper response to the public opinion, which we wish to look for every where, but alas! look for in vain. The question of primary education, as has been said by the Hon'ble Finance Member, is a vast one involving enormous expenditure, but, Sir, that is no reason why this most important and withal neglected subject should not be taken up in right earnest, and the necessary funds ought to be found by retrenchments in pampered departments, and not by fresh taxation as Government proposes. The people are poor, and are already heavily-taxed in proportion to their income, and they positively refuse to pay any further taxation, till serious and effective steps are taken towards retrenchments in a top-heavy administration. Sir, I heartily congratulate my Muhammadan friends upon the opening of the Islamia college during the next financial year. Sir, as Hindus we are by our religious instinct not inimical towards the votaries of other faiths, and we do not grudge either our Christian or Muhammadan friends the expenditure of very large sums of money not of the State, earmarked for their education, more especially when it is co-ordinated with religious instructions. But, Sir, I wish to plead for the much neglected religious instruction of the Hindus. I begin by gratefully mentioning that Government some years ago made a start in this direction by recognising the Sanskrit *tôls* in the different districts, and by not only instituting title examinations in different subjects, but by sanctioning some grants-in-aid for such *tôls*. But, Sir, it is a matter of sincere regret that the amount available for such grants is not at all adequate to the requirement. It is well known, Sir, that in these *tôls* by tradition and convention not only no tuition fee is charged, but often the pupils hailing from distances are fed by the *Guru* (teachers) of the *tôls*. Time there was when living was cheap in our land, and these *Gurus* used to receive from time to time honorary from rich Hindu zemindars, but in these days of high prices, and gradually dwindling class of such zemindars, these Sanskrit *tôls*, the only repository of the ancient lore of the Hindus, are more moribund than alive. The true worth of this lore is gradually being recognised in the civilised world, and it is not only in the interests of the Hindus, but also of future civilisation of the world, that these *Gurus* who have no other sources of income should be vouchsafed a living income by suitable grants by Government through the Education Department. I beg, therefore, to appeal to the Hon'ble Finance *plus* Education Member, as also to the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, to allot a much larger amount as grants-in-aid to the Sanskrit *tôls* in the province, and I most fervently hope I do not appeal in vain. Sir, the next outstanding feature of

the Budget is an increase of about Rs. 4 lakhs in the Police Budget. Without entering into the question of the justice or otherwise of this increase for the present, it is, indeed, a matter of surprise and regret that the Government seems bent upon every year to add to the allotments under the Police in proportion as the cry is raised by the public for retrenchment under this head. Sir, one does not know if it would be necessary for the public to ask for still further increase in this expenditure in order to induce the Government, like an erring child, to effect some reduction under this head. Sir, it is of course a pleasure to note increased allotments under almost all the so-called "Transferred", now called "Reserved A" Subjects. Sir, the expenditure provided in the Medical and the Public Health Departments is really a welcome one, though looking at the vast field of work lying before us, one would wish to have much larger allotments. The scheme of starting a few medical schools together, as adumberated by the Hon'ble Finance Member, seems at first sight to be a good one, though it would require working out in details for our acceptance. But, Sir, it is rather an one-sided patronage for the Government to aid in starting only allopathic medical schools, without doing anything for the advancement of the indigeneous modes of treatment, such as *Ayurveda* and *Hakimi*. Sir, in referring to the Public Health Department, one cannot help noting with regret that there is provided more money in the establishment charges in its two sides for the preparation of sanitary schemes, and advices than there is money provided to help the local bodies by grants and loans for carrying out such schemes and advices. In this connection, Sir, I feel bound to utter a word of protest against the present practice of charging so heavily the local bodies for services of the Public Health Engineering Department, as also of charging interest upon loans to such bodies at high rate of 7 per cent. Sir, coming to the question of Agriculture, which at present seems to engross very large attention of the Government both in Delhi and in Whitehall, I must say that the public do not appreciate the utility of having a Royal Commission at enormous cost to advice about improving and advancing the cause of agriculture. We have very sad experiences of these Commissions and Committees which tell heavily upon the purse of the State with little or no good results. A portion of the cost for the proposed Commission may usefully be spent for the advancement of agriculture according to the present experience, without the costly advice of the Commission. Sir, under the head of Industry, I extremely regret to note that no serious and earnest efforts are being made to solve the most urgent and important question of unemployment by establishing a fully-equipped Technical Institution in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, and we have heard this afternoon that there is no chance of opening such a school in the near future, or by extending the usefulness of one or two existing such institutions such as Serampore Weaving Institution. I need hardly say that the Government to be really a popular Government must retrench in

general Administration and Police and must spend much more in Agriculture and Industry. Sir, coming to Civil Works as my last item, I find Government is much in love with brick and joist, the construction of buildings, which may not be urgently necessary for the present, is always taken in hand, and the cost is generally charged to revenue, while urgent works for the ameleoration of the condition of the people requiring recurring expenditure are left over for want of funds. There is one matter of local interest however, which I may be allowed to mention in concluding these remarks. It is the absence of any house in Serampore for the residence of the I. M. S. Civil Surgeon who badly feels the inconvenience. There is sufficient room within the compound of the Subdivisional Officer's house and another like house may well be constructed for the Civil Surgeon.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I find that you were pleased to stop persons in the midst of their speech because they have passed their limit and you have been pleased to grant me only ten minutes, so I must have to finish my speech by 4-30. I shall not make a general survey of the Budget. If hard words were to break bones, I wish I could use harder words against Government for the treatment they have accorded to Muhammadans in the Judicial Department by not giving them their due proportion of service in the Judicial Service.

Sir Abd-ur-Rahim has brought this fact prominently to the notice of Government, and I think Government will be pleased to make a note of it, and see that the interests of Muhammadan community is not jeopardised by that particular branch of Government.

Those who have the love of their country at heart cannot but congratulate the Finance Member on the frank admission he has made that Government has so far "been spending disproportionately on higher education and neglecting the masses". If this is an admission of guilt, I hope the Hon'ble Member is repentant and is willing to make amends for his past sins, for the masses have actually been neglected so long, and the reason for this neglect is not far to seek, for Government, as it is, is hemmed in by classes, and is guided by class interests. Now that this matter of doing good to the country and to the masses have dawned upon Government let us hope that they will make earnest efforts in that direction, and do all they can. I wish that in this effort my friends on the benches opposite would also help the Government by bringing resolutions in the Council that they do not want higher education any further, but they are quite ready to concentrate their energies on the education of the masses. We want education to make our countrymen quite fit to shoulder their responsibilities as citizens of the land, for without education we cannot expect the masses to recognise their duties and responsibilities; without that they are a set of persons who will be guided and swayed by

every political wind that blows, and every agitator that comes to them will have a hearing. Give the masses education, let them know which way their interest lies, and then they will be able to judge matters properly and no agitator, however eloquent, however thoroughly pursuasive he may be, will be able to sway them. It is to the interests of the people themselves and it is also to the interest of Government that they should immediately start taking measures for the spread of primary and free education in the country. I hope, Sir, that Government will be pleased to take a note of this and immediately start primary education in the land. This is a matter about which we have been talking in this Council for years together, and even in the last Council during the Budget discussion this matter was talked about by many of the Councillors, and I also took part in the debate, but up till now no result has come of that. This is not what we desire, and this is what we hope the Government should not do, but should immediately put their shoulders to the wheel instead of placing the matter before a committee and waiting for their recommendations, which may not come at all, and may come in such a form, as may not be helpful in the spread of education to that extent which is necessary.

Besides this point I would like to bring forward one or two things relating to my own district. There was this promise given to us that after Government had considered the claim of Mymensingh so far as the question of a Medical School was concerned, the Medical School at Berhampore and next to it Chittagong would be taken in hand: but I am afraid there does not seem to be much prospect of this measure fructifying and Berhampore getting the Medical School which it deserves. This place has got the necessary buildings already and it is only a small arrangement of making a small change in the existing Mental Hospital at very little cost that Government will be able to get accommodation there, and as for the necessary money for the upkeep of the Medical School, we have collected Rs. 1,35,000 which is not a small sum. I hope Government will be pleased to see this school started before the year is out.

Government in its letter informed us that building was one of the necessities for getting a Medical School; well, it has got the building; necessary clinical arrangements were required; so far as that is concerned, there is the Berhampore Hospital which has 94 beds and which is going to add four beds more very soon, and besides that there is every arrangement for helping the students in the study of their subjects. These two very essential things are there, and so far as money is concerned, ample provision has been made by the people of the locality, and if more money be necessary, I do not doubt more will be found. I hope Government will help in founding this school a success. I think there will be nothing in the way to obstruct the advance that the people of Berhampore have made in that direction.

So far as the Berhampore Hospital itself is concerned, I beg to point out to the Hon'ble Member that there has been an increase in the number of patients in this hospital, both outdoor and indoor patients are on the increase. Because of financial difficulties they had to cut down expenses in European medicines from Rs. 5,500 to Rs. 2,500. At a time when more medicine is necessary, this hospital which is actually doing very good work for the whole district has to cut down a very necessary thing which will help the people in their distress. Is it not right, Sir, that the Government Member should take a note of this and immediately see to it that at least Rs. 3,000 a year is granted to this institution?

Now, Sir, I revert for the two minutes that are left to me to the question of mass education. Another advantage that will be derived from giving mass education to the people is that you will immediately tackle the sanitary, agricultural and economic problem of the land. It is the want of education which does not enable the people to co-operate with Government in all the beneficial measures which it has taken and intends to take. Cholera, as has been pointed out by my friend Mr. Addy, is growing and if the people are educated, they will be able to combat this fell disease and other diseases which visit them every year by hearing all the counsels given them by Government and helping each other in the matter of keeping themselves free from the disease. Sir, I earnestly hope that Government should immediately try to see that primary education is introduced in the country, and sufficient provision made for it. Why not take a loan of 2 crores of rupees or more, if that be necessary; this money will be best invested for such a purpose, and now that we have got sufficient funds we shall be able to pay the necessary interest and after 10 years, I am sure, it will not be necessary to ask for more money and take a further loan for this particular purpose. After the people are educated they will be able to handle their own affairs and will agree to any taxation on themselves for the purpose of getting funds for their own good.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: The night has passed and with it has passed away the nightmare also. Such is the impression with which one is left after perusing the Hon'ble Finance Member's introductory speech. But whence came the darkness? The Reforms they say were all light—not the light of a will-o'-the-wisp but the pure light of a new dawn. Whence came the darkness then? Well, it had a different origin they say, *viz.*, in the Meston Award and Settlement. Was not the Meston Award a part of the Reforms? Has it not after all proved to be an unalterable part of it? That is a vexed question which all those who are interested in insisting on an "unambiguous" answer from the people do not care to reply. The Bengal Government which simulated righteous indignation in the years, 1921,

1922, and 1923, do not appear to be smarting under the injustice any more. In his jubilation the Finance Member has well-nigh forgotten to repeat once more his ineffectual protest against it. For after all the Bengal Budget stands balanced. That is what he cares for. Reforms may come and go—subjects transferred may stand retransferred under the appellation " Reserved A "—but so long as the triple taxes stand and more may be safely added to them he has no cause of anxiety, much less of regret.

The people, however, cannot so soon forget, Sir, the circumstances under which the three additional taxes were imposed—they cannot forget the promises that were made and the hopes that were raised in securing the passage of the Taxation Bills in 1922. Were not the new taxation proposals " purely temporary expedients " as Lord Ronaldshay said in November, 1921? Were not the same remarks quoted and the same assurances given by Sir John Kerr in January, 1922? Did not the head of the province say: " Nor Government have ever departed from the view that the settlement ought to have been such as to permit the continuance of administration on existing lines without the imposition of additional taxation?" If so, since when the Budget was balanced and a surplus obtained, why a portion of the additional taxation could not be remitted? Why when you got a surplus of 58 lakhs in 1924-25 the Government could not think of relieving a portion of the burden of extra taxation- why instead of proposing to increase your expenditure by about a crore or 95 lakhs in one year you could not think of giving up the increased revenue, say from non-judicial stamps and thus relieve the tax-payers of Bengal to some extent? Do you think that the people will ever again believe in your plea of " temporary expedients " for fresh taxation if and when they find that taxes once increased by special pleadings in times of emergency, mean increased taxation for ever? It is true that both Lord Ronaldshay and Sir John Kerr believed that " at no distant time " the Government of India would be " forced to undertake a re-examination of the whole question " of the financial settlement and Meston Award; but if your higher authorities non-co-operate and refuse to listen to reason and to revise any thing early, is that a justification for the continued imposition of three additional burdens on the people of Bengal just for the purpose of carrying an increasingly top-heavy administration so long as you choose? I know, Sir, it will be said that the Government of India has remitted the provincial contribution of 63 lakhs. But after the speech of Lord Ronaldshay showing how the real contribution of Bengal to the Central Government was nearly 4 crores more than that of Bombay, 13 crores more than that of Madras, and 17 to 20 crores more than that of any other province, could this grant of a pittance of 63 lakhs be deemed all that was expected from the higher authorities? And is this remission such a grand concession as can reconcile us for all time to come with the Meston Award and the increased taxes?

Far from giving however any indication of relief either now or in near future our Government, Sir, is anxious to move in a contrary direction. Taxing a helpless people more and more may be a profitable financial pastime, but how could a fourth additional burden be surreptitiously laid on Bengal when the cries of protest against the triple taxation had hardly died down, I for myself could not understand. Just at a time, Sir, when "Stamps" exceeded all expectations by yielding a better receipt to the tune of 26½ lakhs in one year, when it was further estimated that there would be on the whole a surplus of 13 lakhs the Government of Bengal increased the registration fees by so much as to yield 47 per cent. of the total receipts under that head which meant no less than 12 to 13 lakhs a year. The Hon'ble Finance Member is pleased to assume and observe that: "The members of the Council are no doubt aware the Registration Fees were revised in some cases with effect from the 1st June last". May I ask when was the matter brought to the notice of the Council, by whom and how? The old habit of taxing the people without their consent persists we know, the habit of hatching measures in secret continues we are aware, but it is certainly an advance upon the old order of things that a doctrine of constructive notice has been developed with regard to this House.

Passing on to the expenditure side the first question that occurs to us is how was it that the Government strenuously opposed all motions for reductions when so much saving could be made and estimated on revision year after year (23½ lakhs of actual saving in 1924-25 and 33 lakhs of estimated saving in 1925-26). And not only are non-official motions for reduction vehemently opposed but what is more strange is that cuts are sometimes restored even if carried. Take, for instance, my motion for a cut of 2½ lakhs which I proposed in the demand for a grant of Rs. 21,38,000 on account of "Survey and Settlement" charges in the last year's Budget. The motion was carried in the open Council, but the cut was restored. But now we find that on revised estimate by Government a saving of Rs. 1,38,000 is expected under that sub-head and full Rs. 2,50,000 under the general head of "Land Revenue".

But two instances of saving there are which distinctly call for comment. The first is that Bengal which suffers so terribly from want of good drinking water could not avail of the princely grant of 2½ lakhs for want of local enthusiasm and contribution. The second is that the small sum that was earmarked for the spread of primary education according to what is known as the Biss Scheme was "not all required" in a province where not more than 8 per cent. are literate. I doubted as much, Sir, and expressed my doubts when the last Budget was presented. But then I must say that departments and agencies which cannot make use of even such small grants and find excuse in the lack of local response certainly stand condemned and if the conditions of Government grant are in any way discouraging then they should certainly be relaxed and made more attractive. That the people who

suffer from these primary wants are not anxious to remove them even when helped with grants is nothing less than a libel on a whole province—a province which even its worst detractors cannot say is not endowed with common sense and natural intelligence. If the Government departments and agencies fail in such matters then the better course will be to entrust local bodies with the distribution of such grants and aids.

The Hon'ble Finance Member, with the object of capturing our imagination, has given in detail the doles that he proposes to distribute for the encouragement of education. How can he think that a detailed statement of such a few doles can satisfy Bengal thirsting for more cultural, vocational, technological and general education? May I enquire what provision, if any, has been made for the expansion of the Calcutta Sanskrit College and the development of oriental studies? May I enquire why in pursuance of the promise to restore the retrenchments in the Transferred Departments the retrenchments in the Calcutta Sanskrit College have not been restored—why the few primary schools for girls that used to be run by the Government still stand deprovincialised? Why no provision has been made to multiply weaving institutions in accordance with the oft-repeated public demand for such institutions. Why again no provision has been made for giving effect to a scheme of agricultural education the scheme for which was the subject-matter of a Government Resolution about three years ago? Police training, even after the Retrenchment Committee's Report, may be a very necessary item according to the Government but is agricultural education a matter of less moment and vital concern to the people?

But perhaps the biggest question that arises in view of the "surplus" and the accumulated balance is what the Government (if they be unwilling to remit any portion of the additional taxes) propose to do to make good their promises and assurances and sympathy. In imposing the triple taxes Sir John Kerr said: "A further reason for asking for a moderate surplus is that we shall thereby be enabled to inaugurate a sound loan policy to pay for large non-recurring schemes out of the proceeds of a loan and thereby relieve our Revenue Budget to enable us to undertake a large number of useful and beneficial recurring schemes". Now that surplus years have appeared and large balances accumulated, may we enquire where are the big beneficial schemes which Sir John Kerr promised to initiate by loans? Sir Surendra asked the previous Council to vote for the triple taxation just to make it possible that collosal anti-malarial schemes financed from loans may be started to drive malaria out of Bengal. The triple taxes have come to stay and have done their part in balancing the Budget, yielding surpluses and accumulating balances. But where are the schemes of the Health Department to rid the province of the

scourge of malaria and kala-azar? It is puerile to suggest that an expenditure of 2 lakhs per annum for three years can drive kala-azar out of Bengal. Year before last when Deshabandhu Das suggested the loan project of 5 crores the Hon'ble Mr. Donald professing some sympathy for the suggestion observed that neither there were schemes ready nor 40 lakhs of rupees available for the service of such a loan. Will the Hon'ble Finance Member now two years after plead for the same want of schemes? At any rate what with the annual savings and what with the increased receipts from enhanced Registration Fees 30 lakhs or more can easily be provided for the service of a big loan scheme. If the Government chooses to fritter away the available resources in extra administrative cost and in financing loans for police buildings the post-Reforms financial history of Bengal will, like the political history of the country, be strewn with fragments of broken promises and littered with wreckages of false hopes deliberately raised but never meant to be realised.

Before I conclude my speech, Sir, I want to say a few words regarding the form of the Budget. I note with regret, Sir, that the comparative table showing the expenditure on the Reserved and the Transferred side has not been given in this year's Budget. Why that has been left out, I do not understand. But I note with much pleasure that the Irrigation Department and the Public Works Department Budgets have now this time been presented in a more welcome shape and intelligible form. Let me hope this improvement will be maintained and more particulars on these intricate portions of the Budget will be forthcoming in future. Two points on which fuller information will be desired are the methods of distribution of the establishment charges on the various works where such charges are distributed *pro rata* and the particulars regarding the estimated recoveries on account of the dredgers in cases where such recoveries are entered in the Budget. I thank the Hon'ble Mr. Donald and the authorities of the Irrigation Department for what they have done to improve this aspect of the Budget and hope more endeavour will be made to improve it further.

Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: There is one aspect of the present year's Budget which takes it out of the ordinary run. For the first time in the history of the Reformed Constitution this year we are free from the nightmare of the provincial contribution. This year for the first time we can look forward to laying down a policy of our own, but examining the position we find that in spite of the contribution being taken off, we have practically no money to spend for recurring expenditure. The policy that we may lay down must therefore be limited to the spending from our accumulated balances. It is true that we have some capital money which we can utilise for the good of the people but as the Hon'ble Finance Member has pointed out a good many schemes

cannot be undertaken without provision for recurring expenditure; I agree with him there. But there are schemes, there are grave needs of the people which can be met without recurring expenditure, and although the Budget is not without its pleasing features—I am referring to the increased grant to the Calcutta University, to the proposed change in the system of grants to Medical Schools and the grant for the extension of the Presidency College as some of the pleasing features of the Budget—yet if we examine the Budget on its own merits I am sorry to say that it is profoundly disappointing.

This year we have not the stock argument that the Ministers are not ready with their schemes. This year we have not got the other argument that we could not spare any money because we may be called upon to pay our contribution of 63 lakhs to the Government of India. Here we have more than 2 crores of rupees which could have been and should have been spent for the good of the people—if not the whole of it at least a good portion of it. There are schemes which can be provided for without recurring expenditure. Look at the great problem of rural drinking water. Have not our masses for whom so much sympathy is expressed to manage without good drinking water in most places in Bengal? Have they not to drink in most places a mixture of mud and water and in some places even filth and water? You had more than one year to develop your schemes. What have you done? Do not mistake my attitude. If I am criticising you strongly it is because I feel that the politics in which I have faith, the politics of a better understanding between England and India, will be impossible of realisation unless you not only feel for the masses but do tangible things which will make you popular both amongst the masses and the classes. If you cannot meet your critics by your acts and deeds and not merely by your professions, you will not be able to meet them successfully. Here, for instance, was a golden opportunity which you have let slip but it is no good crying over the past. I am willing to ignore the past if he promises to rectify the past by his future action. My hon'ble friend the Finance Member has given us some hope that he may introduce a supplementary Budget in the July Session. Let him consult all the different groups in the Council. There are various problems in which party questions have no place—they do not find a place; we agree to realize his difficulties, we shall remember that he has not money yet for recurring expenditure and if he cares to take the assistance and advice of the non-official members of the Council I dare say we shall be able to place before him schemes worthy of serious consideration, schemes which will better the conditions of the masses. One I have already mentioned I will suggest another by way of illustration one affecting a great educational problem—namely, that of the improvement in the education of the backward classes and to a certain extent of my Moslem countrymen. It may say that this

problem cannot be solved without recurring expenditure, but cannot we provide scholarships say for the next 5 or 10 years setting apart a definite capital sum? There will be nothing wrong if you provide for scholarships, say thousand scholarships for the backward classes and thousand for Muhammadans limited to the next 5 or 10 years and to be met out of a sum to be set apart. I am not going into details but I am merely placing an idea. There are various other things which can be managed without recurring expenditure and my great regret is that during the last year advantage was not taken of the changed situation in the financial condition of the Government of Bengal. What is really wanted is a policy behind the Budget. The time for laying down a policy did not come in the past because we had not the money. I appreciate however that we want to have a really good and effective policy behind the Budget we can cannot do so unless we have a better provision for recurring expenditure. I will therefore place my suggestions for providing ample funds for recurring expenditure.

From the year 1921 onwards in Bengal we have retrenched to the extent of about Rs. 1,80,00,000; we have imposed additional taxation which on the figures of the present Budget brings in nearly Rs. 1,20,00,000 but practically the whole of this additional resource of about Rs. 3 crores has to be spent for meeting the expenditure for the normal activities of Government. A situation like this is an impossible one. I know my esteemed friend Mr. Lindsay has attractive proposals for primary education. There are other important schemes for the good of the province but so long as you do not get justice done to the province it will be impossible to make any great advance in any of the great demands and necessities of the people. We should, however, remember that if we want to press our claim successfully we must be simple or selfish but we must ask for justice to every province in India including Bengal.

The Hon'ble Finance Member has suggested a resettlement of the Meston Award; let him try for it by all means; that is however a very big question but may I offer some other suggestions which have this merit that the principle thereof has been accepted both by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and by the Government of India? The principle has been accepted by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and also in the Devolution Rules that every province in India should have some share in the growth of taxation resulting from the industrial growth of the province, but the Devolution Rules have been framed in such a way that the provinces have been awarded one-fourth of the surplus of the income tax, treating a certain war-period year as a normal year. The result has been absolutely illusory. Let the provinces press and let the Government of our own province take the lead and let the non-official members of this Council also,

irrespective of party join in that demand and let us all press for the Devolution Rule being changed so that every province may get a share in the growth of taxation resulting from industrial progress of the province whether that share be one-fourth, or one-fifth, or one-sixth of the income tax, or whether it be 10 or 12 per cent. of the port dues I do not care. It is nothing but justice that the provinces which have to share the burden of the necessary expenditure should have some share of the growth of taxation resulting from the industrial growth of the province, and here is a point in which most of the provinces of India will have common interest and when principle has been accepted by the Parliamentary Joint Committee as also in the Devolution Rules.

There is another suggestion which I would ask my hon'ble friend to consider and to press for. The Joint Parliamentary Committee have laid down that the peculiar financial difficulties of Bengal are worthy of serious consideration. In 1921 the only consideration that was given was the relief of Rs. 63 lakhs for three years; that period is over now. Now we have got a permanent relief of 63 lakhs and not only we but other provinces also have got their provincial contributions reduced. Now, if the principle is accepted by the Joint Parliamentary Committee that Bengal's peculiar financial difficulties deserve redress there is one tax peculiar to Bengal that is the jute-tax—export duty on jute. As regards the export duty on jute, it is, we all know, a war-time tax, but it has come to stay and we can legitimately press our claims on the Government of India to hand over the whole or at any rate a very substantial portion of the export duty on jute. I am afraid in the past we have not done our duty in this respect; we have not pressed for it as earnestly as we should have done and the Government have not led us in the matter as vigorously as they should have done.

There is one other matter to which I desire to refer. In mentioning the pleasing features of the Budget I have deliberately refrained from referring to the grant of Rs. 2,84,000 for rural water-supply and the grant for kala-azar. I have refrained from doing so because I find that on the present system under which we are working the Government have not been able to spend even the 2½ lakhs which was provided in the Budget last year for rural water-supply and what is the reason? The reason is that—in the words of an eminent statesman who may not be very popular with some of my friends on the Treasury Bench but who is deservedly popular among us—your system is "too wooden and inelastic". You distribute your doles for water-supply through the Divisional Commissioners and Collectors; there I have no quarrel with you but you do not associate the non-officials, you do not take steps to raise enthusiasm amongst the local people, you do not take steps to rouse the conscience of the people in this matter; sitting

at your desk and on your office chairs you issue your orders. Many of the outside public do not even know that there is this money available. How are they to approach you or the District Board?

There is yet another important aspect of this question. We know that most of the money has to be spent within the limited portion of a year, so the wells cannot be sunk and tanks cannot be dug within that period. There is no continuity of policy.

I would ask my friends on the Treasury Benches to seriously consider the advisability of establishing a rural water-supply Trust. Give some good grant to that Trust—50 lakhs will not be too much. Through the Trust try to get local efforts harmonised and arrange for a continuity of policy and working. We want all the help of the officials as also of the non-officials. It is essential to have a continuity of policy; each year's expenditure should not depend merely upon the Budget grant of that year. There are other proposals which I would have liked to touch upon, but the time at my disposal is short.

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit and had to resume his seat.)

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Roy, I can allow you only ten minutes.

Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: Yes, Sir, I shall try to finish as quickly as possible. I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member because he has presented the Budget estimate for the year 1926-27 which cannot be characterised as a deficit Budget. It is a well-known fact that after the inauguration of the Reforms the normal condition of the finances of Bengal had been that of deficit. I am glad the Hon'ble Mr. Donald who had been somewhat stringent in making grants to the Nation-Building Departments has been able to vouchsafe to us a reassuring message that the imposition of any additional taxation in this unhappy province is not contemplated. I am also glad that in doing so he has relieved us by assuring us that the nightmare of our provincial contribution to the Government of India will not disturb us. We hope the contribution of 63 lakhs a year will no longer burden us. The Finance Member has told us that he expects an increase of revenue from Stamp and Registration which are, to all intents and purposes, transferred subjects to the extent of 38½ lakhs. In addition to this the balances amount to about two crores of rupees. As an advocate of the Temperance Movement I would welcome a fall in the excise revenue. I am glad the anticipations of the Hon'ble Finance Member has not materialised. A large sum of money is therefore available for the spending departments. I am always an exponent of the policy of economy. The need for economy is there. I hope the Government will keep down administrative charges as far as possible.

I do not propose to indulge in a roaming discussion on all the activities of Government. I shall confine myself to some of the aspects of the Nation-Building Departments which have been still starving. The Hon'ble Finance Member has expressed the view that it is not he or his department that is responsible for the distribution of monies available for new expenditure but that is the concern of the whole Government and not of any of its Members. I am sure this proposition will not be challenged by the Hon'ble Members in charge of all the other departments.

I shall first deal with the question of rural water-supply. I am sorry nothing has yet been done for effectually tackling this problem. There is no question which has been agitating the public mind more deeply than the one relating to the adequate supply of cheap and pure drinking water in the villages of Bengal. I regret it is my painful duty to observe that the responsibilities which have rested upon Government whether popular or bureaucratic, the District Boards and local bodies have not been properly shouldered and discharged. Much has been said, pledges have been often made, for earmarking grants for this purposes, resources have been replenished, ministries have been founded and much talked of but the scarcity of drinking water to the villagers, toiling under a cloudless sky and blazing sun in the summer, has remained as acute and distressing as ever.

I gave notice of a starred question with a view to elicit information from the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government as regards the number of tanks which had been excavated and reclaimed for the period from 1920 to 1925 in the District of Dacca. But, Sir, my interpellation was disallowed on the ground that it related to a matter which concerned primarily not the local Government but the District Board of Dacca. Sir, I wish you will take a broader view in future. This is the position. While the people are groaning under a load of taxation and crying for supply of pure drinking water in the rural areas, we are being driven from pillar to post. The resources of the District Boards have been augmented by the surrender of the public works cess by Lord Carmichael in 1913. In 1915 the local Government had to issue a Circular in which it has been specifically stated that "it has been the consistent policy of Government to reserve to itself the power of earmarking a portion of the public works cess for the improvement of water-supply". Appeals had been made, warnings had been given to the District Boards in this matter, but the magnitude of the problem has not been properly estimated and realised. I feel bound to refer to the Government Circular which was again issued in March, 1917, in which the Governor in Council not only deprecated the tendency to devote to communications large sums in excess of both the road cess receipts and augmentation grants but they impressed upon the District Boards the necessity of utilising the public works cess

specially for the improvement of water-supply. I appeal to the broad-minded and popular Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia who is now the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government, Public Health and Sanitation and trust he will see that the Budget Estimates of District Boards are subjected to careful scrutiny and that the funds at their disposal are not misapplied but spent more on water-supply than on communication. It is a pity that while only a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs was provided in the Budget of the current year for rural water-supply even this magnificent grant has not been fully spent. I hope that the problem of rural water-supply will be solved and not shelved. It would not do to try to soothe the afflicted villagers the agriculturists—by repeating pious wishes and doing nothing more. Something tangible has got to be done if the willing allegiance of the masses has got to be secured.

I would next refer to the fact that the pest of water-hyacinth has become a serious menace to the health and agriculture of Bengal. It has not only impeded navigation but they have positively imperilled cultivation. We all stand on the same platform in this matter. Even the Associated Chambers of India and Ceylon have recorded their considered opinion that an organised and well-concerted action should be taken for eradicating this pest. There is a singular unanimity of opinion in this respect. Many of the District Boards of Eastern Bengal have urged for immediate and united effort. I do not know whether Griffiths' spray will at all be efficacious in this matter. It appears that the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture has in addition to a sum of Rs. 20,000 in the Irrigation Budget for a conveyor in connection with water-hyacinth operations have included a sum of Rs. 50,000 for experiments. Let me hope the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur who had personal experience of this terrible pest of water-hyacinth will see that the small and inadequate grant will be properly spent and not misapplied.

I cannot help referring to the splendid work which is being done by women in Bengal. More than 60 *Mohila Samitics*, *i.e.*, women's institutes, have come into existence and they have been carrying on vigorous propaganda work for the unlift of womanhood by effecting educational sanitary and social progress, by arranging for the teaching of useful arts and handicrafts to purdah women—Hindus and Muhammadans—and amongst others by establishing *dhai* training classes and baby clinics in villages. Propaganda work by magic lantern have also been undertaken. It is desirable that these movements should be encouraged so that instructions in domestic hygiene, sanitation, public health, cottage industries and handicrafts are given to our females in rural areas. I sincerely hope the Hon'ble Members will appreciate the active work which these organisations have undertaken for the welfare and education of the womanhood of Bengal and will not hesitate to make a substantial demand for grant to this deserving and

useful enterprise in the July session. The Government have already made liberal grants to private institutions. We find that while patients in hospitals have still to pay for their own treatment and famine and pestilence is the normal condition of things in Bengal, the demand for grants to the pampered Police Department has been still further inflated. I am glad that a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been provided for a building grant to the Carmichael College and Hospital. I would like to press for a grant being made to the scheme for the revival of the indigenous system of Ayurvedic treatment in Bengal. I remember that the late Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea appointed a mixed committee for this purpose and a report was submitted by them sometime ago.

I cannot understand why no further sum has been included to finance what are known as Biss Primary Education Schemes. While the towns are swallowing up almost the bulk of the grants the rural areas which are infinitely larger are being denied substantial grants in the matter of primary education. It is not fair that taxation direct or indirect should be levied upon the dumb, voiceless and suffering millions of Bengal for meeting the costs of their primary education. No one can deny that the pay of primary teachers are ridiculously inadequate and it is essential that the Government should ungrudgingly bear these burdens if they desire to keep the masses contented. The time has come when the several Taxation Bills which evoked a storm of opposition and were enacted not as permanent measures should be revised and reconsidered. In any event I cannot see any reason why taxation on amusements should be at all perpetuated.

Maulvi SAIYED ABDUR ROB CHAUDHURI delivered his speech partly in Urdu and partly in Bengali.

Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: This time last year I had the courage to speak what was afterwards described as a revolutionary speech because I dared to attack the Permanent Settlement. Sir, I have grown wise since because I have learnt that it would be a mere waste of time and energy to challenge land monopoly for the simple reason that the political machines in Bengal are in the hands of land monopolists and their agents and allies and creatures. My object last year was to demonstrate that the whole principle of taxation in this country was inequitable and wrong and that if land monopolists who took 11 crores annually from the poor raiyats were properly taxed we would have have had enough money to introduce all sorts of schemes for building the real Indian nation. Sir, I am bitterly disappointed. Even the Taxation Committee by their mountain of labour has produced a mouse—even the official element in that Committee does not favour fresh taxes of land-owners. Therefore, the nation is doomed for some

years to come to find enough money for the Nation-Building Department.* I now come to the Budget discussion of the day. I must congratulate Mr. Donald for placing before us a very lucid statement of the financial position of the province. I am glad to note his admission that the subjects known as Transferred Subjects such as Education, Public Health and Hospitals received the lion's share of new expenditure. He also made a frank confession that for some years University and Secondary Education had been absorbing the lion's share of the funds available for educational expansion. I want to ask him a question or two. Does he or this Council think that expenditure on Secondary and University Education which represents more than 80 per cent. of the total grant of Rs. 1·30 crores helps in any way the building of the Indian nation? Does he forget the very outstanding factor of our present situation, *viz.*, the ever-increasing number of thousands of unemployed and unemployable literary Graduates and Under-Graduates?

Yielding to the nauseating agitation of the Bosses of the Calcutta University and complete surrendering to their agitation for funds for top-heavy and luxurious Post-Graduate teaching does not in the least show that the Government has any serious intention of tackling that supreme problem of nation-building by early introduction of primary education. At the same time I am not blind to the facts that the Government took considerable pains in the matter of preparing Biss's Primary Education Scheme. We are equally grateful to Mr. Lindsay for the pains he is taking for legislative remedy in the matter of primary education. I do not care who controls the proposed machinery of primary education whether the District Board or the District officials so long the machinery is set up to collect funds and spend them for the specific purpose of mass education. I feel equally strongly about the urgency of the spread of education among *purdah* women. I am indeed surprised that no funds are provided for this specific purpose of *purdah* education through the Industries Department, or the Public Health Department or other Nation-Building Departments. It is my firm conviction that without female education on right lines and without giving them training to earn their own living no nation worth the name can make any real and honest progress. Mere female suffrage or midwifery training will make very little difference to the real growth of Indian womanhood. Even if the Government cannot directly take a lead in the matter, let it come forward with open purse to help those struggling institutions striving hard for the uplift of Indian womanhood. It is my honest belief that grants made to *bona fide* institutions working for women welfare work will be a better investment than spending money for similar work through official departments.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Mr. Ray Chaudhuri.

Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: One minute more, Sir. The sale of the rice liquor known as *pachwai* in the coalfields is diminishing not only because of the slump in the coal trade but also because the miners—the Sonthals and Bawarees are slowly realising that drinking is bad. It is my honest conviction that in order to improve the moral and economic well being of the working classes we must see that consumption of country liquor is reduced more and more. This can be done by following the well-known maxim of maximum revenue and minimum sale and the best way to translate it into action is to increase the present duties on country liquor by at least 20 per cent. In fact there is a resolution in my name on the subject and I hope to give facts and figures in support of my contention when that Resolution comes to be discussed.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HUQ spoke in Bengali. The English translation of which is as follows:—

Sir, I have repeatedly pointed out various defects in the Budget estimates and moved reductions in the expenditure on establishment which, it is needless to say, have never been carried out. Nor have the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee been carried out in important matters, such as reduction of the number of the Members of the Executive Council, abolition of the post of the Divisional Commissioner, reduction of the number of Judicial Officers, etc. We learn from the speech delivered this year by the Governor at Dacca that as the result of the increase in the number of Union Courts, the number of suits decreased by fifteen thousand between 1920 and 1925. Inspite of this decrease, no retrenchment has been made in regard to the number of Judicial Officers. The stamp duty was raised simultaneously in Bengal and Assam. In Assam a definite provision has been made by way of compromise to spend a sum equivalent to that which is collected from stamp duty on nation-building work. In Bengal, however, no such provision has been made.

In Bengal various taxes have been increased and nearly six lakhs of rupees are derived by enhancement of registration fees, while nothing has been added to the funds available for the nation-building departments. Government always find it impossible to give a few lakhs for these departments, notwithstanding the fact that they can afford to spend many lakhs on buildings and on the construction of bridges, not to mention the extraordinary high salaries they pay.

In view of the fact that the major portion of the taxes is paid by the peasants, is it not Government's duty to give their first consideration to the amelioration of the condition of these poor men and postpone the construction of buildings for the present?

In comparing our Budget with the budgets of other civilized countries, we find that in those countries the expense per head is Rs. 3-8 to annas six while in our country it is one pie for every healthy man and nine pies for every sick man.

Nearly two crores are derived annually from jute, but Bengal does not get a pie out of it in compensation for various inconveniences she is put to by jute cultivation. We might have had some satisfaction even if the sum of sixty-three lakhs being the annual contribution made by Bengal to the Central Government were permanently made over for the purpose of nation-building work in Bengal.

It is learnt from the reports published by Government that the mosquito is the cause of the spread of malaria. In that case what are we to say to Government for not providing mosquito curtains for prisoners?

The extension of railways has in many places blocked the natural drainage and bred various diseases and even rendered some places uninhabitable. Particular mention may be made of Kosba in Brahmanbaria to the condition of which I have repeatedly drawn the attention of Government. During last year's Budget discussion I drew their attention to the Comilla Hospital, the Gumti Embankment, Faiz-un-nessa Girls' School and the Chittagong Medical School. I want to draw special attention to the decay of the Titam in Comilla and to the need of weeding out water-hyacinth.

Compulsory primary education is another important subject. Twenty-five lakhs or a lakh on average for each district have been given for it. This money is quite insufficient for the purpose, in view of the fact that almost nothing is given from the income from road and public cesses made over to the District Boards. The condition might be improved if it is arranged to give something from the provincial funds to the Middle English sub-schools. On the whole, fifty lakhs are required for the purpose of primary education in addition to the contributions made by the District Boards.

The provision made for fighting malaria is wholly insufficient. At least three lakhs should be set apart for this purpose.

A friend in the House has demanded a contribution for *tols* because some aid has been given to the Islamia College. *Tols* and Madrassah deserve greater help.

Finally, a large provision has been made for the Department of Agriculture. It is to be pointed out that the major portion of it will be spent on establishment in disregard of the real needs of the raiyats such as provision for agricultural loans, drainage, etc. Bengal raiyats have been very little benefited by the importation of experts from England and elsewhere.

Mr. A. C. BANNERJEE: At this late hour I do not propose to detain the House for more than five minutes the allotted time, although the quantity of matter regarding which a great deal can be said is such that it might enable one to talk for hours. First of all, Sir, I am amazed to find that the Hon'ble Finance Member should have expected us to congratulate him on his surplus balance of 2 crores and 26 lakhs. On the other hand I should have told him that this surplus is such as ought to have made him ashamed of himself because after all what right have you to tax the people when you do not want the money for purposes of administration or for bettering their lot. Taxing the people means going to the people and telling them—look here your wants are these, your requirements are so many, and in order to be able to finance them I want this money but you take the money and do not spend it. First of all you had no right to take the money from them. You take the money on false pretences. Elsewhere you would have come under the Penal Code section for cheating. But to a bureaucracy-ridden Government that section never applies. It is a legalised robbery. They have brute force on their side and they take the money without having the least intention of utilising it for the purposes for which it was raised. In any other civilised countries the Ministers would certainly have been brought down from high pedestals and turned out of office. Here, however, they are fixtures. We cannot, even a United House, turn them out of office. The plea for not spending a fraction of the surplus was that because the conditions on which the money was given had not been fulfilled. What are those conditions?

(Here the member reached his time-limit and was given one minute more to conclude his speech.)

The conditions are that the District Boards have got to contribute half before you part with your money. Why should that condition be imposed? There are over 88,000 villages in Bengal and I take it that in about 16 to 18 thousand of these villages there are some sort of supply of potable water. With regard to the rest why could not the Government of its own accord provide each village with a well which ordinarily costs about Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. Money is found for the Barrackpore Trunk Road, money is found for pampering the police—the police that is not liked by the people, but we are told that the police is unjustly unpopular! I should like to know who are most interested in the maintenance of law and order—the people or the bureaucracy? And why should the police be unpopular with the people for whose protection they are employed? It is because, as has been pointed out, they are inefficient and corrupt, because they consider they are masters and not servants of the people.

Mr. MAHBUBUL HUQ: At the outset I must tell the House that I shall be very brief because at this fag end of the day I do not wish to inflict any lengthy speech on the House.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Member has put a hallmark upon his Budget telling us that it is a Budget of the Nation-Building Departments. I fail to understand what has prompted him to make such a remark in his introductory speech. There are, no doubt, slight increases in the provisions made for the several departments but I doubt very much whether they are sufficient to meet the growing needs.

Another thing which has struck me in the Budget of 1926-27 is that a very scanty pittance has been allowed for the rural water-supply. In the coming summer when people will be dying out of thirst for good water in various villages in Bengal and when the bureaucratic Government officials would be enjoying the invigorating tonic of the mountain air, the wearies of the dumb millions can better be imagined than described. I beg to submit that the provisions made in the Budget for rural water-supply is wholly inadequate and in my opinion a larger provision ought to have been made for this purpose. Nothing is dearer to the villagers in the sultry days than good drinking water and in places where there is scarcity of good drinking water, the villagers rush like the thirsty deer in the desert to the ponds which are breeding places of the germs of malaria and other fell diseases.

I think the provision made for the anti-kala-zar measures a disease which is taking away thousands of promising young men, boys and children from the bosoms of their families—is also very inadequate, and the provision made for the spread of primary education amongst the children of the soil is also very unsatisfactory. I must remind the Hon'ble Finance Member that the education of the children is as necessary as their health because unless the children are of good physique they will not be able to take full advantage of the education that will be imparted to them. And unless and until our children live a healthier and better life with good education you cannot expect them to be better citizens in the near future, and to educate a child, according to the Roman historian Jacitus, requires greater wisdom than to govern a Kingdom. Sir, unless and until our people through their representatives can exercise more control over the Budget, it is useless to discuss it in this manner. We must have more control over the Budget so that we should meet our demands according to the income of the province.

Another thing which has struck me is the attitude taken up by the Hon'ble Finance Member in regard to the increased revenue which is now derived out of Stamps. But I must remind the House that the poor litigants who pay the increased rate feel it very much. I fail to

understand why this Bengal Stamp Amendment Act which was passed as a tentative measure should still find its place in the Statute Book. The sooner it is removed the better for the litigants who are our own countrymen.

I am glad to find that a provision of Rs. 4½ lakhs has been made in the Budget for the Damodar Canal Scheme. This will alleviate the sufferings of millions of poor men in the Burdwan Division and to this they have been looking forward since the year 1906.

MEMBER in charge of FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): We have heard complaints from each side of the House that the privileges of the House have been curtailed by the reduction in the number of days for discussion of the Budget from four to two days. The attendance of the members yesterday and to-day will, however, convince any one that even two days' time is more than enough for this purpose. Sir, it has been said to-day that men may come and men may go but the Finance Member goes on for ever. Well, Sir, that is just what has been happening to-day: men have been coming and men have been going. But I am not going on for ever. I shall only keep the House for a few minutes.

We are told that this is a deficit Budget: well, that is really a misreading of the position. If the hon'ble members will refer to page 6 of my Budget Speech, they will find that our income is about Rs. 31 lakhs over our expenditure, and that we are utilising part of that for new recurring expenditure, keeping part for our future commitments: what we spend over and above that we will meet from our balances. So it is really not a deficit Budget. We have also been told that the utilisation of our balances might be carried to a much greater extent. Well, we are utilising our balances very nearly as far as we possibly can, because we must have a certain amount of working capital, so that we need not be over-drawing on our account with the Government of India who are our bankers. We have to keep certain sums to meet demands at a time when our receipts have not come into the extent necessary to meet our outgoings. We keep that as a working capital.

There is one thing which I should like to impress upon members. Many members do not realise that all these figures in the Budget are mere estimates, and that these figures are liable to alteration according to the needs of expenditure. Take for instance the provision made for Agricultural and Industrial Loans which has been referred to by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy. If the money is found insufficient we shall come to the Council later on: the present figures are merely estimates of what we think will be required.

I have explained the main items of expenditure in my Budget Speech, but there are one or two items which I would like to mention

here. Dr. Moreno has referred to the need for a Dental School. I may mention that we have appointed a Dental Surgeon in the Presidency General Hospital and a scheme for the establishment of a Dental School is being worked out.

As regards the Leper Colony, the fact is that there is no water available on the site so far as we have been able to ascertain. Investigations are still in progress.

As regards the loan for the Howrah Water-works, the proposal was received too late to be considered in connection with this Budget. The scheme for primary education, as I have so far told the House, has been under the consideration of the Education Department: I may now say that the scheme reached Government to-day and it is now under the consideration of Government.

The Berhampore Medical School should make much progress next year, if the scheme is promptly worked out now.

There is only another subject which I should like to mention, and that is about the entertainments tax. Dr. Moreno has complained that this affects the pockets of the poorer classes. May I point out to him that it is open to these people to go to the cheaper seats where they will not feel the tax, as it is not imposed on the cheap seats eight annas and less. Now, last year the Council passed a resolution recommending the exemption of theatres and cinemas from the tax. It was pointed out then that we could not lose this income in view of our liability in regard to the provincial contribution. It has been said that we cannot take our stand on that now with the remission of our provincial contribution; I must, however, point out that we must realise that, even though this remission has been given, the adoption of this resolution will deprive us of money which could be utilised in meeting the cost of new schemes. If this money were available, more new schemes might be given a place in the Budget. If any relief is given the responsibility will be that of the Council they will be giving away something which could be utilised in financing new schemes. After giving our careful consideration to the matter, we have come to the conclusion that there is some case for theatres getting relief but there is absolutely no case for cinemas. Government have therefore decided that with effect from the 1st April next theatres will be exempted from the payment of the tax for a period of two years. That will conclude with the time when the period of remission of our provincial contribution will expire.

There remains only one other matter to which I should like to refer—I mean the Meston Award. With regard to this our position is now more favourable because we have before us the Report of the

Taxation Enquiry Committee. The whole subject of taxation will come under revision when the Government of India consider the report, and we will now utilise this opportunity of placing our case for a revision of the settlement before the Government of India.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Monday, the 15th March, 1926, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

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